Green Gala tickets sold out. PAGE 2
Level of offensive odor at wastewater plant to go up. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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FIELD OF HEROES
Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog carry a wreath that they placed at the Circle of Honor of the American Memorial Park during the Field of Heroes ceremony yesterday. The ceremony marked the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack, its many victims, and the role of emergency responders.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

18 days left before deadline

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Legislature goes into conference committee on budget bill

The House of Representatives rejected yesterday the Senate's proposed amendments to the fiscal year 2018 budget, effectively forcing the creation of a conference committee that is expected to meet within the week to hammer out a compromise version.

18 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2017

The House rejected on an 18-2 vote the Senate amendments that moved around $2.5 million among government agencies, gave the Marianas Visitors Authority a budget that

See DEADLINE on Page 4

Vicky Benavente is new Labor chief

Viky Benavente is the new Labor secretary.

In an announcement yesterday from the Office of the Governor, it said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has appointed Julia Victoria I. Benavente to serve as secretary of the CNMI Department of Labor.

"Vicky has been a valued member of my team and has played an active role in our tourism industry and our islands' economic development over many years. As we continue to sustain our economy with the necessary labor, she will be instrumental in leading our efforts to effectively recruit and train more of our local residents to join the workforce. She shares in my vision to increase the num-

See VICKY on Page 4

'We are not responsible for cleaning up beaches'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

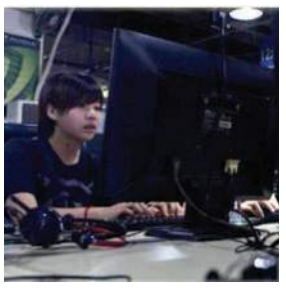
The responsibility of getting rid of fecal matter from beach sites does not lie in the hands of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality alone, according to bureau administrator Frank Rabauliman.

Of course, the BECQ could do it but cleaning up beaches should be more of a joint effort among government agencies. If it becomes a joint effort, BECQ would be more than happy to take part, he added.

Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune* a few weeks ago that they had uncov-

See BEACHES on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS
Frank Chen's e-commerce business has nothing to do with politics but he worries.
PAGE 14

NATION
Hurricane Irma gave Florida a coast-to-coast pummeling with winds up to 130 mph.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Miss North Dakota is named Miss America 2018.
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Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan leads TanHoldings Corp./Tan Siu Lin Foundation officials in turning over a donation as a title sponsor of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Green Gala.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam turns over a $3,000 donation as a title sponsor of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Green Gala.

Senior-Year College Admissions Advising

- How to choose schools to apply to
- The application process
- Financial aid for U.S. citizens & International students
  - → Scholarships
  - → Grants
  - → Loans
  - → Work-Study
- Personal help with college applications & financial aid forms

College Advising for Freshmen, Sophomores & Juniors

- The different types of colleges & universities in America
- How to research a college or university
- The SAT, ACT, TOEFL, and other standardized tests
- What financial aid is all about
- What colleges look for in extracurriculars & community service

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- How to write effective descriptive & expository essays
- How to write the best college application essays

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- How to write effective traditional essays for the May exam

Contact: (670) 285-1669
Ellen Choi (Korean/English Capable)
E-mail: keithallentessen@gmail.com

Green Gala tickets sold out

Tickets for the Green Gala are sold out.

In a statement yesterday, the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, which will be hosting the gala this Friday, Sept. 15, announced that due to the great response, no additional Green Gala tickets will be sold at the door.

"We want to thank all the individuals who have shown their support for MINA by purchasing tickets, and all the companies who have contributed to the Green Gala event," said MINA board chair Fran Castro. "We are working hard to put on a great event for our ticket holders and to make them as comfortable as possible. Unfortunately, because of space limitations, we are unable to sell any more tickets."

The Emerald sponsors for the event include Bridge Investment Group, LLC, Docomo Pacific, E-Land Group/Kensington Hotel/Coral Ocean Point, IT&E, Joeten Enterprises, Inc., Marianas Legal Strategy Group, LLC, The Shack, and United Airlines.

Title sponsors are Ace Hardware, Bank of Guam, KSPN2 News, KZMI Radio, *Marianas Variety* News & Views, Saipan Brewing Co., Tan-Holdings Corp./Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and T-Galleria.

Major sponsors are Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Cub, Bridge Capital, LLC, Triple J Saipan, Inc., McDonald's of Saipan, Chong's Corp., Angil Design, Pena House Boutique/Iridescent, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., Hofschneider Engineering Corp., Lollipops, Joeten Superstore, Joeten Motors Co., Inc., Roil Soil, Uprooted CNMI, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Event sponsors include SUP Saipan, Kanoa Resort, J.E.T. Holding Co., GHD, Saipan Ice and Water, Matson Navigation, Latte Built, Medical Associates of the Pacific, Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd., Chelu Photos, Furey & Associates, NMI Cycling Federation, The Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, All Star Sporting Goods, Naked Fish Bar and Grill, Gold's Gym Saipan, Shelly Scott, JEM Co. Ltd., and Sound Hire Saipan.

For more information about the Gala, call MINA at 233-REEF (7333). ***(PR)***

4-day PH consular outreach had 600-plus participants

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, encourages Filipino citizens to take into account the expiration of their passports and set a schedule for an appointment to have them renewed eight months in advance.

For those in the CNMI, that would mean keeping in mind that the process of renewing a Philippine passport may take up to eight months and must be done well in advance of the scheduled consular outreach of the Guam consulate to the CNMI.

In its latest foray to Saipan, the Philippine Consulate General conducted an outreach mission at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center since Friday last week up until yesterday.

The mission accommodated over 600 registered participants.

According to Philippine consul Mark Hamoy, this mission is a continuation of their regular consular duties to the Northern Mariana Islands and focused mainly on the renewal of passports and registration for the 2019 election.

In the past four days, the outreach program accommodated an average of 120 individuals per days and registered over 100 voters, Hamoy said.

Filipino citizens who are interested in voting in the 2019 election must register during the consular outreach].

Hamoy also reminds Filipino citizens to check the expiration on their passports and plan ahead so that they can catch the consular outreach missions when they are here on island.

According to Hamoy, there is one more consular outreach for 2018, set for November. A date is still in the works but the consulate general will notify the Northern Marianas as soon as a date is set.

Emergency water service outage yesterday

There was an emergency water service interruption yesterday in the Chalan Piao, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose areas due to an underground power distribution cable failure that affected 12 water wells; repairs were completed yesterday. Due to ample time needed to refill CUC's water tanks, customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services last night at 6pm. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

Division of Customs undergoes training

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Personnel of the CNMI Division of Customs are undergoing training on the Revised Kyoto Convention to give the CNMI a global perspective on customs laws and be a part of the world trading system in terms of main trade facilitation.

Oceania Customs Organization Secretariat operations manager Tevita Tupou said this was the first time the training was brought here.

"Basically, the idea is, we are taking CNMI legislation and mirroring it against the RKC and identifying the gaps that exist," said Tupou. "After the identification of the gaps, we will put together a strategy on how we can narrow those gaps and work toward having CNMI accede to the RKC."

The RKC was developed by the World Customs Organization and came into force on Feb. 3, 2006. The rationale of the RKC is to make member customs organizations around the world follow the same process and procedures so that global facilitation is achieved.

RKC also eradicates unnecessary delays or "red tape" for moving goods across borders as it promotes transparency and predictability of customs actions, standardization and simplification of goods declarations, simplify procedures for authorized persons, maximize use of technology, coordinated interventions with other border agencies, to name a few.

Division of Customs Services director Jose C. Mafnas said RKC is not yet officially implemented in the CNMI but a number of its practices are currently being done.

"But we want to be a part of it as an official member or recognized customs organization that implements the RKC so we can also be at par with the other customs globally, to raise our services to international standards," Mafnas said. "With our growing economy, it is moving so fast that we need to move our standards up. We don't' want to hamper the flow of trade; we want to facilitate, be more efficient."

"Recently, we are going over all our regulations. It took us about three months or more. We went through all our regulations to update and cut off those unnecessary processes that hamper trade, so this training is very timely," he added.

According to Tupou, for CNMI Customs to be able to use RKC, its customs laws have to conform with current laws.

"Once the CNMI has acceded to the RKC, they have three years to be fully compliant with the RKC. The assessment process will probably take six months but once you accede, the CNMI has three years to comply," he said.

According to Tupou, the shift in the trade landscape demands a new way of thinking—an approach from the bottom to the management.

"It requires them to work together. Not only as an institution but as players in the supply chain. It requires the whole of the CNMI to come together and make this work," he said.

Speakers from Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat–Trade and Revenue Management adviser Laisiana Tugaga and operations manager Tevita Tupou–lead the national workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention for the benefit of the Division of Customs management and personnel. The workshop is from Sept. 11 to Sept. 15 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. BEA CABRERA

Mafnas believes the RKC will be beneficial to the CNMI.

"Our role is very important as we are the frontline agency at the ports. Everything comes through the ports… everything flows through the ports. We cannot compromise the security. We have to balance it out and we need to be ahead," he said.

Drugs trying to penetrate the CNMI are part of the challenges that Customs face everyday.

"Crystal meth doesn't just fall from the sky. It passes through us, so things like this coming into the CNMI, we have to gear up with equipment and training. We are not going to compromise the integrity of our enforcement in the ports and we are still making an impact at the ports," said Mafnas.

The training will end on Friday, Sept. 15, and the RKC training by OCO will move on to Guam.

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Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
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Man, 31, allegedly sexually abused a minor

Police arrested on Thursday a 31-year-old man who allegedly sexually abused a 17-year-old girl on Saipan.

Joseph Laniyo Lisua was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and disturbing the peace.

A $15,000 cash bail was imposed on Lisua; preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 20 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Jamal Saleh was appointed as counsel for Lisua. Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio is prosecuting the case.

A police officer responded to a report of sexual abuse of a minor on Thursday at 4:19pm. The officer met with the woman who called the police. The officer then arrested Lisua.

In a police interview with the witness, she stated that she saw Lisua sexually abusing the teenager.

A Division of Youth Services social worker interviewed the girl, who alleged that Lisua asked her to have sex with him but she refused. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DPS to get 20 new vehicles

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will get 20 new police vehicles, according to DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero.

He disclosed that DPS will get 10 vehicles through the Office of Grants Management.

On top of that, Guerrero said, DPS will also get 10 more police vehicles though funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Of the first 10 vehicles, which are small sports utility vehicles, six will be for Saipan, two for Tinian, and two for Rota.

The six vehicles for Saipan will be assigned to the *koban* (substation) in Garapan and substations in Chalan Kanoa and Kagman. DPS is planning to put up substations in San Roque, Koblerville, and in Dandan.

"The contracts have been processed, routed as we speak. The orders will be completed, hopefully by next month or so," Guerrero said.

The additional 10 vehicles, he said, will be for patrol on Saipan only.

The commissioner said they are hoping to get those vehicles in two months, as there will be a bidding process.

"The more police presence in the community, the better. We are trying to bring policing down to the community level," Guerrero said.

Commerce: CEDS soon to be released

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Commerce is set to release the results of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy survey and, with the economic growth and development the CNMI has experienced over the past years, the results are highly anticipated.

The CEDS is a document composed of information gathered from government agencies, private business organizations, and the general public, said Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman.

The project, which is funded under a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, is overseen by the CNMI Department of Commerce.

According to Rabauliman, CEDS was intended to prioritize development projects, which would yield highest economic value to the community and interpret the unique dynamics of the CNMI.

"It requires organizing the planning of the various regional opportunities, weaknesses, and strengths to the jurisdiction's economic condition. During the process, developing the ranking of the matrix, which considered the various dynamics, gave importance to the current and future condition of the CNMI economy's health," he added.

The approved dynamics used in the survey consisted of several criteria based on public benefit, industry growth, support of new and emerging industry, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats impact, employment sourcing, economic circulation and environmental impact.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman during the last Chamber meeting.
BEA CABRERA

"This study will be released in the coming weeks as we are finalizing the sets of criteria," Rabauliman added.

DEADLINE

From Page 1

already allocates $1.5 million as an expense, and many others.

Reps. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) and Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian) opposed rejecting the Senate amendments, which included a $452,962 increase for Rota and a $793,534 increase for Tinian.

"With that kind of increase, who would say no?" said Maratita, adding that Senate amendments had "significant" increases for both the first and second senatorial districts.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, said the $2.5 million that got moved around was a "significant amount that we need to review further."

"[The Senate amendments] just got transmitted to the House and we can't just accept it without due process," he said, citing the large amount that was moved around as reason for both chambers to go into a conference committee.

"[We] need to make sure to be able to verify how these funds were moved," said Demapan.

According to Demapan, there is "big concerns" over the Senate's amendment to modify the MVA's budget to finance the needs of other government agencies.

"That is a very significant modification and we would like to analyze that modification further to see how best we could reduce that impact because any impact that we make on the MVA budget just translates to a reduction in investment in destination enhancement and promotion activities," he said.

MVA budget modifications include setting aside $450,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, up to $250,000 for the purchase of four additional Automated Passport Control units, up to $100,000 for a CNMI Cultural Center feasibility study, up to $200,000 to fund a Chamorro and Carolinian cultures celebration activity throughout September 2018, $250,000 each to Rota and Tinian mayor's offices to fund tractors with batwing mower attachments, and $69,435 for the Public School System's Cooperative Education Program for the promotion of its tourism-related programs.

The modifications would cost the MVA over $1.5 million in indirect budget reductions.

The Senate amendment also reduced the Legislative Bureau's budget. The House version appropriated $2.5 million for the bureau, while the Senate reduced it to $2.2 million, shaving $262,973 off the bureau's budget.

"The bulk of the [Legislative Bureau] budget was for generator procurement and the construction for the housing of the generator unit," said Demapan. He added that the procurement of the generator was for emergency sessions in the event of a natural calamity such as Typhoon Soudelor.

According to Demapan, back when Typhoon Soudelor hit, the Legislature had to go into emergency session to enable Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to "move funding around to address the critical emergencies brought about the typhoon."

"We couldn't get into session [in the House chamber on Capital Hill] because we had no access to power," he said, adding that the Legislature then had to bounce back and forth between government offices to hold sessions and address critical needs.

Conference committee meetings

According to Demapan, he wishes to begin conference committee meetings within the week.

"If we can push out a final version of the budget by the end of the week, it is something that I would like to consider," he said, citing the constitutional mandate that gives Gov. Ralph DLG Torres 20 days to review the budget.

"It is my intention to work closely with the Senate conferees and the Senate chairman of the conferees to ensure that we pass a budget in time that gives the governor ample time to review it and to ensure that we avert a government shutdown in services," he said.

Demapan chairs the House panel for the conference committee, while vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) acts as vice chair and Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) is a third member. Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) was appointed as an alternate in the event that any of the three could not attend the conference committee.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) chairs the Senate panel for the conference committee, while Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) acts as vice chair and Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) is a third member. Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) was appointed as an alternate for the Senate panel.

VICKY

From Page 1

ber of our local workforce so that our economy continues to grow and more opportunities are available for every person willing to work for it. I am confident she will lead this vital department with the same passion she has exhibited everywhere she goes," Torres said.

Benavente has been the special assistant for Project Development for the Office of the Governor since August 2016.

A former managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority from 2000 to 2006, Benavente developed marketing campaigns designed to improve the visibility of the Northern Mariana Islands with key travel markets in the Asia-Pacific region.

She described her role as an active and vigilant position dedicated to ensuring that the local workforce is developed and that the CNMI's labor issues are addressed responsibly and effectively for the long-term.

"I'm honored to accept the nomination from Gov. Torres for the position of the secretary of Labor. We are—as a community, either in the private or public sector—all aware of the numerous challenges facing the CNMI with regard to the labor workforce, and I [look] forward to taking on these responsibilities with the team at the Labor Department," Benavente said.

Prior to her role at the Office of the Governor, Benavente was executive manager for the Pacific Islands Club Saipan from 2008 to 2016 and a manager at the Hyatt Regency Saipan from 2006 to 2008. She was also a deputy managing director for MVA from 1998 to 2000.

Benavente attended the University of South Carolina, the College of Southern Idaho, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Travel Industry Management.

She also received a human resources certification from the American Lodging and Hospitality Education Institute in 2010.

She is married to former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

BEACHES

From Page 1

ered fecal matter on mostly remote beach sites.

He said maintenance of these beaches does not fall within their purview and the public should not hold BECQ responsible for clearing up these beaches.

Rabauliman also feels that cleaning out these areas will not keep the issue from resurfacing, adding that his crew has cleaned these areas once or twice since finding out about it but the issue continues to crop up.

BECQ initially pushed to close these areas indefinitely but decided against the idea as it would only hurt the revenue the island gets from tourism.

Instead, Rabauliman said, the concept of restricting tourist access to sites that are contaminated with human feces could be implemented if a similar plan to restrict access to the Grotto takes off.

With these areas gated, crowds will not only be controlled but entrance fees could also be put into place in order to fund the establishment of restroom facilities and trash bins.

According to Rabauliman, he is aware that the development of facilities in these areas is essential, but it would take funds to set up the facilities and maintain them.

Rabauliman is sure that the fecal matter is not generated by animals because they were covered with toilet paper and are not left behind by local residents because, according to him, "who would drive all the way to these hidden beaches just to do this?"

According to Rabauliman, since their last cleanup, these mostly remote beaches still continue to remain polluted with both fecal remnants and garbage bags, but until a long-term solution is found, they will not clean these areas aside from their monthly commitment to pick up as much trash as they can every first Saturday of the month.

Aside from restricting access to tourist sites, the tour guide certification program has since been established at the Northern Marianas College in conjunction with Marianas Visitors Authority.

KONQER MASCOT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. staff and management pose with Konqer Saipan mascot Kiki the T-Rex during their volunteer work at the competitive sporting event held last Saturday. The company donated prizes and volunteer hours as an event sponsor.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors & caregivers support meeting on Sept. 14

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the monthly support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017, starting at 5:30pm, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Philippine e-passports now ready for release

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with honorary consul Eli Arago in the CNMI, is now releasing new passports to those who renewed their passport last July 10,11,12 and 13, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Bldg. D, second floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm (12-1pm is break time). Bring your old passport and receipt. For any inquiry or details call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

Class of 1987 gears up for reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

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ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-16
SUBMISSION DATE: September 26th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TWO (2) NEW 2016–2017 VEHICLES (4 Door Sedans)"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

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FOOD DRIVE

Students from the Northern Marianas College School of Education Association recently hosted a canned food drive for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. All donations are intended to go to CNMI residents living in Texas who are affected by the natural disaster. From left, Myron Mendoza, Jason Artero, Jaydene Ermitanio, and Leah Fabila.

NMC

Level of offensive odor at wastewater plant to go up

There will be a slight to moderate increase in the level of offensive odor at the Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment facility.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is hauling processed sludge from the facility to the landfill and the odor is the result of disturbing the dried solids that have accumulated on site. CUC started the process last Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

Also, CUC will be making additional process control changes that will advance sewage treatment efforts. These adjustments will also add to the increase in offensive odor levels.

The odors may continue through Oct. 20, 2017.

Every effort will be made to keep the odors at a minimal level as much as possible. Since individuals have different heightened levels of smell, some individuals may find the odors more offensive than others. These odors should only be noticeable around the Puerto Rico/Sadog Tasi area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Japan in need of English teachers

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda recently promoted the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, which seeks to lure English language teachers to Japan.

Speaking to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at its general meeting last Sept. 6 at Kanoa Resort in Susupe, the current trend among the younger generation is the lack of interest to study the English language abroad.

"Before, the older generation's interest was to go abroad to study and learn English especially during the time when Japan was still a developing nation, [when life] was uncomfortable."

"Today, Japan is well developed. The younger generation would rather stay, live, and study in Japan instead of going abroad. So many young ones stay and the number of Japanese students abroad is decreasing," Shinoda added.

He lamented this development, saying that English is a very important tool both in communicating and understanding "each other and that is why JET is very important."

"The JET Programme aims to promote grass roots 'internationalization' at the local level. The program has grown significantly for the past 30 years. The number of participating countries has grown from four to 44 and the number of participants from 848 to 5,163 as of 2017."

The program invites college graduates from around the world to participate in international exchange work and be involved in foreign language education at Japan's local government offices, board of education, elementary schools, and junior and senior high schools.

According to Shinoda, the positions that the JET program intends to fill are assistant language teachers and coordinator for international relations.

"The ALT will be placed mainly in public schools or local boards of education. ALTs assist with classes taught by Japanese teachers and will be involved in the preparation of teaching materials and in extracurricular activities like English clubs or sports teams."

"CIR applicants with a functional command of the Japanese language can apply to work as CIRs, assisting local government offices in international exchange activities at the local level. The job entails interpreting for government officials, teaching community or school English classes and international exchange event planning and implementation," he added.

More than 90 percent of JET participants are employed as ALTS and under 10 percent of JET participants are employed as CIRs. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or obtain such qualification by July 15, 2018.

Shinoda said, "Successful applicants receive a one-year term of appointment with a contracting organization in Japan and can renew the contract up to five years."

For applicants who are residing on Saipan and in Guam, recruitment and selection of participants is conducted by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Consulate-General of Japan in Hagatna.

Department of Labor

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4) The closing conference
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- A conference to review findings;
- A written report of recommendations and agreements
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- Follow-up by the consultant to ensure that any required corrections have been made

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Elaine Pangelinan
Joey Pangelinan
Or, Mariana Coates

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Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor — Victor B. Hocog, Lt. Governor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 14, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. at the NMC Room A1, Tatacho, Rota**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
i. Regular Board Meeting – June 2, 2017

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

III. **CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
a. Divisional Updates

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
a. 2016 Audited Financial Statements Update.
b. Garapan Annex Update
c. USDA RD Defaulted Loans Update
d. Land Exchange St. Jude Chapel, Rota

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
a. Loans for Review and Approval
b. Marianas Medical Referral Center Access Road
c. ZH's Request for Additional Credits
d. ARVH, ZH, GFE, IVP Return and Reallocation Requests
e. Personnel Matters

VI. **LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**

VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VIII. **OTHER MATTERS**

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman of the Board

ANTONIO L. BORJA, Chairman — PATRICIA H. AGUON, Vice Chairwoman — JESUSA C. ATALIG, Secretary — JOVITA SK. PAULINO, Treasurer — BOARD MEMBER, Vacant

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Friday, September 15, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
August 18, 2017

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. NEW BUSINESS
1. Applicant Review

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER
V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Antonio L. Borja
Chairman[1]

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

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4-cyl, Manual 6-speed, RWD, Orange, STK#R17-020F
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NOW $19,999*

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Pearl, STK#T17-02578
WAS $23,399
NOW $21,399*

2015 Prius V Hatchback Hybrid
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Lt. Blue, STK#U17-064R
NOW $21,799*

2015 Subaru Forester 2.15i Premium SUV, AWD
Auto, 4-cyl, Silver, STK#U17-080P
NOW $21,999*

2016 RAV4 LE, FWD
4-cyl, Auto, Bronze, STK#U17-088R
NOW $24,699*

2016 RAV4 LE AWD
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NOW $25,199*

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V6, Auto, Green, STK#U17-091T
NOW $25,699*

2016 PreRunner 4x2, Double Cab
Silver, STK#U16-141P
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2015 Highlander LE
Auto, 6-spd, 2WD, 4-cyl, Gray, STK#R17-021F
NOW $29,999*

2017 Tacoma DC PreRunner 4x2
4-cyl, Auto, Black
STK#U17-018F
NOW $30,599*

2016 Highlander LE, FWD
4-cyl, Auto, Blue, STK#U17-086R
NOW $30,999*

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8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R
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2015 Toyota Sienna LE
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NOW $34,499*

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Saipan precincts to get $1M for community projects

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over $1 million will be appropriated to each precinct on Saipan, according to Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

House Local Bill 20-99 has been transmitted to the Governor's Office and is just awaiting approval. The bill appropriates over $1 million to each of the five precincts on island.

Once the bill is approved, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation will start appropriating funds to each precinct for much needed community projects, said Deleon Guerrero.

This bill will greatly impact Precinct 5 (Kagman) because, according to Deleon Guerrero, the funds will go to lighting the streets of Kagman and the restoration of pavilions.

"We will pursue street lighting system for the Kagman walk from Laolao Bay Golf & Resort to Kagman High [School] and stretching past Chacha Oceanview Middle School. Other projects include pavilions at Tank [Beach] and Forbidden Island Beach, renovation of Marine Beach facilities, and many more," said Deleon Guerrero.

At the Kagman Community Park grand opening last Thursday, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog suggested using some of the funds under H.L.B. 20-99 for the completion of Phase II of the park, with the decision lying in the hands of the representatives of the precinct.

According to both Deleon Guerrero and Rep. Francisco Aguon (R-Saipan), the park is a great investment for the community and a portion of the funding would definitely fund the completion of Phase II of the park.

"Once approved, the Saipan delegation shall appropriate funds dedicated for various precinct projects such as projects identified for Phase II of the Kagman People's Park at Kagman Community Center," said Deleon Guerrero. .

The funds to be appropriated to each precinct come from the Saipan casino's business gross received tax.

According to Hocog, because the casino is now generating revenue, the tax collected from the casino produces a total of $15 million—$2 million will be appropriated to Rota and Tinian and $11 million will be appropriated to Saipan.

Hocog said that 25 percent of the funds appropriated to Saipan are reserved to pay off retirees' pension and the left-over money will be divided among the precincts.

Guam gets $839,136 for victims' assistance

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced yesterday that the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women has awarded two grants totaling $839,136 to the Guam Legal Services Corp. and Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence.

The Office of Violence Against Women funds projects that provide comprehensive legal services either through direct representation or victim advocacy to enhance victim safety and strengthen their economic security. Bordallo advocated for funding for these programs during Congress' appropriations process and she has consistently supported Guam's efforts to obtain funding.

The $600,000 grant awarded to the Guam Legal Services Corp. will support the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program. The program was designed to strengthen civil and criminal legal assistance programs for adult and youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who are seeking relief in legal matters related to abuse or violence.

The $239,136 grant awarded to the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence will support efforts to coordinate victim services and collaborate with federal, state and local entities to respond to violence against women issues.

"These grants provide critical federal assistance to Guam improve the overall safety of our island and quality of life of our people," said Bordallo. "I joined my colleagues in the House of Representatives in supporting these programs during the annual appropriations program and I am pleased that the DOJ is releasing these funds to assist these organizations in providing solutions to keep our people safe and provide services needed to combat domestic violence and sexual assault. We are a people rooted in love and respect and violence and assault have no place on our island. These funds will help make Guam a safer place for our families to live." ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-25

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

"REPAINTING PROJECT, WOMEN, INFANTS, &CHILDREN (WIC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD AT 9:00A.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DPL-209

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 05, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANNE G. TEREGEYO
SECRETARY OF DPL

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17- CHCC/FACILITY-24

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 TIME: 11:00 AM

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on September 22, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club. – Charley's Cabaret

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of September 22, 2017
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2017
V. Action Items
a. Ratify/Approve Amendment to Assistive Technology Grant FY 2017 Budget
b. Ratify/Approve Amendment to DD Basic Grant FY 2017 Budget
c. Review & Approve Memorandum of Agreement between CDD and the DCCA (Commonwealth Respite Service Program)
d. Ratify/Approve the Return of TAFP Funding to the CNMI Treasury under TAFP Account
e. Election of Officer - Secretary
VI. Reports
a. Chairperson
b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
d. Executive Director
VII. Old Business
a. Circles Model
b. National Technical Assistance Center on Transition – Capacity Building Institute
c. Seating & Wheeled Mobility Service Training Workshop
d. Transition Conference
VIII. New Business
a. President's Initiative – Partnerships for Innovation, Inclusion and Independence
IX. Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.
In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

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DPL

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS
A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Department of Public Lands (DPL) has recently retained SSFM CNMI, LLC along with their sub-consultants, Chris Hart & Partners, Inc. and John M. Knox & Associates, Inc., to update the CNMI's Public Land Use Plan in order to satisfy Public Law 15-02. This effort is intended to incorporate the public's interests as well as government agencies and groups representing commercial interests.

The first of two public hearings regarding the CNMI Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update for Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands have been scheduled for each municipality as follows:

1) Municipality of Rota
   a. Date – Monday, September 18, 2017
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall, Rota
2) Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
   a. Date – Tuesday, September 19, 2017
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, Tinian
3) Municipality of Saipan
   a. Date – Wednesday, September 20, 2017
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe, Saipan
4) Municipality of the Northern Islands
   a. Date – Thursday, September 21, 2017
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Northern Islands Mayor's Office, Bldg. 1345, Capitol Hill, Saipan

Comments on the Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update may be submitted orally or in writing at any of the scheduled public hearings. Persons unable to attend, including off-island residents, may download a stakeholder survey form from (http://www.dpl.gov.mp/land-use-plan-resources/) and submit it to rreyes@ssfmcnmillc.com and jhart@chpmaui.com by September 29, 2017 to ensure that your interests are heard and considered. After the public hearings, all comments and feedback from the public will be compiled for incorporation into the updated public land use plan. Therefore, the public is encouraged to attend any of the scheduled public hearings. Before finalization of the plan update, there will be a second public hearing for all the municipalities mentioned above. Information will follow.

If you have any questions regarding the public hearings, please contact SSFM CNMI at (670) 233-7770.

Hotel occupancy at 97 pct. in Aug.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands posted another record-breaking month in August, reporting a 97.35-percent average occupancy rate among 11 member hotels for the month.

The figure reflects a 4-percent increase compared to August 2016 and breaks the August 2013 record of 94.01 percent average occupancy.

Average room rates were $163.40 during the month, compared to $156.25 last August and second only to the record on $172.53 in August 1997.

A total of 69,981 of 71,963 available room nights sold in August 2017, compared to 66,842 of 71,803 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

» New record for August occupancy rates

"It's an exciting time to be a part of tourism in the Marianas, as we continue to partner with the community and the government in supporting a strong industry," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "Now that we have helped make economy strong again, we are focusing on keeping it that way. That includes retaining access to foreign workers that sustain the industry, retaining access to visitors travelling here through visa waiver or parole-in-place status, and negotiating new leases or lease extensions for hotels on public land, as proposed by [Senate Bill] 20-35. These matters are critical to continuing the upward trend of the economy."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(PR)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK Robbery in Garapan

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery incident that occurred near the Beach Garden Hotel and Apartments in Garapan.

On Friday, Sept. 8, 2017, at 8:50pm, police responded to a robbery incident at the intersection of Chichirica Avenue and Llat Street in Garapan, west of the Beach Garden Hotel and Apartments.

Police learned that the victim, a 35-year-old Asian female, was walking east on Llat Street with three of her friends when they saw the suspect's car pass them, heading west. The suspect's car came to a stop and a male suspect wearing a pair of board shorts and dark T-shirt exited the car. The suspect ran toward the victim and grabbed her purse. The victim struggled with the suspect, causing the victim to fall. The suspect then ran back to the car with the victim's purse, entered the car, and fled the area.

The suspect's car is described as a gray/silver Toyota Yaris. Witnesses described the car's driver as a man. The items stolen include one white purse containing the victim's Chinese passport, driver's license, ID's, credit cards, the victim's wristwatch, two cell phones, a pair of sunglasses, and foreign currency. The victim received minor injuries.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(PR)***

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Call for Nominations
2017 Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2017 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities;**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;**
- **Preservation of CNMI History; and**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).**

A fifth category, **Lifetime Achievement**, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Nominations may be made by any member of the general public and **are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 13 October 2017.**

Awards will be presented in a special ceremony in October (time, date and venue to be announced).

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW-17-RFP-028

A/E DESIGN FOR THE CONVENIENCE CENTER/MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION KAGMAN AND AS-GONNO, SAIPAN CNMI

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for A/E Design for the Convenience Center/Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station Kagman and As-Gonno, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **September 5, 2017** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **September 21, 2017**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **October 6, 2017**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-305** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 30%
4. Schedule of Completion – 20%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW-17-RFP-028". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 11, 2017**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 11, 2017**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 11, 2017** – AND must be received no later than **October 20, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

SPECIAL
Monday 11th to Friday 15th, double the number of entries in Super Raffle this week.
See Venue for Details
WELCOME
TO Fabulous
SAIPAN VEGAS
NEW SEPTEMBER PLAYER PROMOTION!
TWO SUPER RAFFLE DRAWS
15TH SEPTEMBER AND 29TH OF SEPTEMBER
MORE PRIZES AND MORE WINNERS!
1ST PRIZE $2500 CASH
PLUS 2 WEEKENDS FOR TWO AT SAIPAN VEGAS RESORT
2ND PRIZE $500 CASH
PLUS A WEEKEND FOR TWO AT SAIPAN VEGAS RESORT
3RD PRIZE $250 CASH
PLUS A WEEKEND FOR TWO AT SAIPAN VEGAS RESORT
COME PLAY TODAY AT SAIPAN VEGAS,
YOU'VE GOT THE BEST CHANCE TO BE A WINNER!
Location: Middle Road (next to McDonald's) • 24 hours a day • 7 days a week

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 181

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Do right, Congress, and make Dreamers legal

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program isn't lost yet. Members of Congress can save it by doing what once was commonplace _ working across the aisle to advance common interests. The fate of about 800,000 immigrants _ brought here as children by their undocumented parents _ is ample inspiration for bipartisanship.

When Congress failed to legislate DACA, President Barack Obama created the program in 2012 by executive order. On Tuesday, the Trump administration rescinded the order, delighting Republicans who have taken a hard line on immigration as well as those who disapproved of Obama's end run around the legislative branch.

But these aren't the border scofflaws Americans love to hate. DACA protects young immigrants, known as the Dreamers, who enjoy much public sympathy. They're here through no action of their own. America is the only home many of them ever have known, and they have become acculturated to the American way. Many are in the military or in college, learning the knowledge and skills the American economy demands.

While immigration remains a national flashpoint _ and there's no shame in any nation wanting to control its borders _ protecting the Dreamers would be in keeping with American immigration history. The nation has taken a practical approach to immigration, welcoming immigrants because we needed them. Irish immigrants helped to build the Erie Canal, while those from eastern and southern Europe worked in the mines and mills. During the Bracero Program, in place from 1942 to 1964, millions of Mexican agricultural workers from Mexico traveled to America to meet labor shortages.

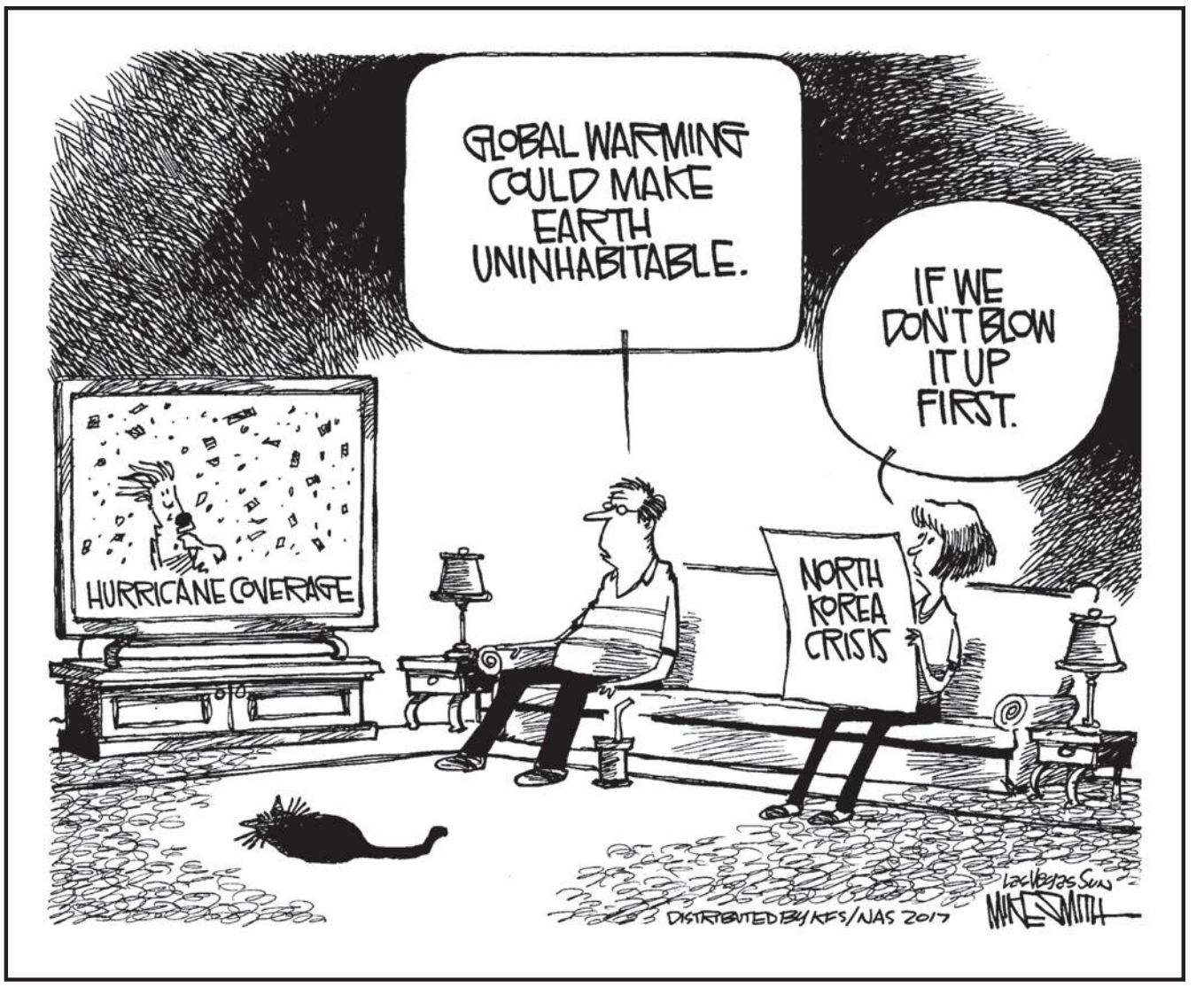
Now, there's sound basis for suggesting that America needs the Dreamers, too, and that deporting them would be cutting off our nose to spite our face, given the resources the nation already has invested in them.

Some parts of the country face dire shortages of workers. Why couldn't the Dreamers fill some of these slots?

Some Republican congressmen realize the Dreamers' special status _ House Speaker Paul Ryan was among those who wanted Mr. Trump to keep DACA intact _ and they now have the opportunity to rally support within their party or work with Democrats to save the program through legislation. Additional border security measures may be part of the deal.

Trump, an immigration hard-liner who has had kind words for the Dreamers, has given Congress six months to act. That's plenty of time to get the job done.

(c)2017 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



Mr. President, let's talk about the Dreamers

By FABIOLA SANTIAGO
Miami Herald

Fabiola Santiago is a columnist for the Miami Herald. *Readers may email her at fsantiago@miamiherald.com.*

Mr. President (aka @realDonaldTrump),

After the inauguration, you pledged to treat Dreamers with "great heart."

You might have heard the collective sigh of relief around the nation from the White House. But, a mere month later, you were giving mixed signals.

"DACA is a very, very difficult subject for me," you said. "To me, it's one of the most difficult subjects I have because you have these incredible kids, in many cases not in all cases. In some of the cases they're having DACA and they're gang members and they're drug dealers, too. But you have some absolutely incredible kids, I would say mostly."

And then, again in April, you told the Associated Press that Dreamers could "rest easy." You were "not after the Dreamers, we are after the criminals."

Let's talk about that.

The man leading the misguided fight against the Dreamers, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, is under indictment on felony security fraud charges and faces a December trial. Surely, you've heard.

Who's the criminal to watch now?

Paxton certainly better fits the label. He may have at his disposal the best legal guns in town, but an indictment rap is no small thing. Unless, he's counting on another vile pardon from you of a law enforcement offender.

Go after these young Americans without legal status, Paxton has urged you, without any regard or compassion for youth studying in our schools, playing with our children, and contributing to their communities with labor and service. Paying taxes, too, I should add. Most Dreamers hold down jobs and study, no easy feat.

If you don't take away their legal protections, Paxton has threatened, he'll lead a 10-state effort to sue the federal government to end the 5-year-old Obama program known as DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. This respite from deportation, enacted after immigration reform repeatedly failed to pass Congress, protects 800,000 of these young people and allows them a driver's license and a work permit so that they can live within U.S. law. It's not a permanent solution but it's legal status.

Paxton, not exactly a pillar of legality himself, has even given you a deadline: Sept. 5. I thought you didn't get pushed around, but let's face it, persecuting immigrants has been your thing since you launched your presidential campaign with a calculated plan to ride the wave of American paranoia post-9-11. Paxton likely thinks he's aiding and abetting your purposes. Top officials of the Department of Homeland Security immediately moved to review DACA, and news reports say you want to use the Dreamer issue as a bargaining chip with Congress.

What happened your "great heart" for these young people brought here by parents who crossed borders or overstayed visas fearful of returning to their homelands, or simply, dazzled by the possibility of a better life?

You need not fear Dreamers. When you stop your praise for them to add the vitriol that there are criminals among them, you backtrack to the Hollywoodesque gang member stereotype these kids don't deserve but can't seem to shed. A white supremacist covered in tattoos is an American. A Hispanic kid with love for his mami professed in ink is automatically criminalized in your mind.

Seek help for the addiction to Fox News, Mr. President. Come to Miami Dade College and Florida International University and see for yourself.

The academic success and involvement in the school community are impressive. Talk to any teacher and they'll tell you that Dreamers study harder and give their maximum effort because they know what's at stake. Are there some who are broken and troubled? Of course. A teacher recently told me about the hard time she's having with a Central American youth who saw his father murdered in front of him, but she's committed to reaching him, even inspired by the possibility of making a substantive difference in his life. We need not fear, but embrace these children who are coming of age among us.

But, getting back to Texas, I hope you were moved by the

See MR. PRESIDENT on Next Page

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Parents, please pony up for a few supplies to help out teachers like me

By JAN COHEN
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Many kids are back in school this week. For the past week, I've been setting up my classroom and stocking up on supplies. I've already spent triple digits, and as I write this piece, I haven't even met my students yet.

For me, and every teacher I know, this is normal.

Education is one of very few career paths in which employees are not provided with the materials needed to do their job. Teachers and the communities we work in, of course, have no control over the budget, the system that dictates that budget or the amount of supplies provided to us.

In order to adequately educate kids, we have to pick up the slack, spending on average $500 on our classrooms annually.

And first-year teachers spend significantly more. I easily spent $1,000 my first year as a teacher on pencils, paper, markers, dictionaries, binders, a hole punch, a pencil sharpener, classroom posters (and absurdly expensive lamination), bulletin board borders, crates and bins, and a projector so my students could see all the lessons I prepared.

Because of the limited resources in many schools, it's common for teachers to ask parents to provide supplies not just for their own children, but supplies like tissues to be shared with the entire class. It's helpful to the teacher, who otherwise will be spending even more out of pocket, but community supplies also reinforce sharing and cooperation and give students ownership of their classroom.

Most parents support their children's teachers and graciously provide these community supplies, but I have to roll my eyes at the parents I've seen posting about greedy overpaid teachers having the nerve to ask for some glue sticks and pencils.

We don't expect a family to contribute if they are not financially able, but if you are in a position to help, the gesture never goes unnoticed.

No one has a stronger belief in a child's right to a free, quality education than public school teachers. But, unfortunately, we often have to rely on the generosity of others to be able to provide the best education we can.

The district has improved since I joined in 2012.

That year, we were allotted one ream of copy paper per month, an average of four to five sheets per student. I learned to fit four quizzes on one sheet of paper and watched as teachers had breakdowns if the copier jammed and ate individual sheets. The first gift I ever received from my boyfriend was a box of copy paper. I was thrilled!

My colleagues and I have relied on crowdfunding to make ends meet. Our engineering teacher raised money on DonorsChoose last year to buy a robot kit and enter our students in a robotics competition. We crowdfund to defray the cost of field trips so our kids can experience the world outside the classroom. English teachers raise the money to buy sets of novels for their students. Science teachers raise money for labs and experiments.

Resources are not as scant as they were a few years ago, but we have a long way to go, and our schools still need help.

When students attend a school that cannot meet their basic needs, they do not see the value of an education. There is a noticeable difference in students when they know they are adequately provided for. They are motivated to learn, they do their homework, and they care about their grades. They believe they can succeed—and they do.

Any help we can get makes the quality of the education we provide better. If you can afford to send your child to school with supplies to share, please do. If you can't, I promise a teacher will make sure your child has what he or she needs anyway.

Jan Cohen teaches Spanish at Kensington High School in Philadelphia. She wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who are criminals and who are you

Last of a two-part letter

We should all think long and hard about branding a person for life because it is not right nor is it fair. The phrase "you need to walk a mile or two in their shoes" truly applies to this subject matter because it offers true wisdom for one to live by, especially when faced with the adversities of decision making about a person or people. I'm sure family members don't see or refer to their relative who was a criminal at one time as still being "a criminal" and more than likely they would resent others calling their relative a criminal. When it's your child or family member, one can easily forgive and forget but the real character and even a moral challenge is to forgive a stranger.

There are literally millions who have left their criminal behavior behind and became productive citizens of society but we don't hear about them unless they become famous like Don King, the boxing promoter. But when I was the education administrator and only teacher at the juvenile facility, I was able to get the first ever inmate to graduate high school while in prison in the CNMI. Now this kid was a criminal when he was out doing wrong, but where do we draw the line for calling him a criminal? Can we truly call him a criminal today or even 5, 10, 15, or 20 years from now when he has never committed any more criminal acts since his release from prison? For me, the criminal label should be removed the moment they are completely free of their obligations to society. Are we not supposed to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you"? And "let him who has not sinned cast the first stone." Every Catholic person should know who said that!

Forgiveness is a pinnacle trait of people in the Christian faith and with other religions and even among atheist. There have been people who have lost their loved one to a murderer but they stand up in court and tell that person "I forgive you" because that is what Christ did as an example for us all and it is one of the best ways to move on with their life or it would be a life filled with anger and hate to serve no means or just end in misery. Forgiveness is truly a test of one's character and if we can't forgive our own people so they can help with the implementation and operations of the cannabis industry in the CNMI, it will be a catastrophic before we even start the cannabis industry.

I am also still wondering what a person's criminal record has to do with the cultivation and the operations of the cannabis industry. I can understand a person's record coming into play if they have a criminal history of sex crimes and working with children or if it's an armed marijuana enforcement officer but this is about growing marijuana, controlling and governing over the industry, not about a job in criminal justice, TSA or the FBI and there are no children involved. What does requiring a person to have a clean record really prove about their future actions? Nothing! People do change for the better. We have all seen a lieutenant governor, senators, congressmen, many public servants, professionals and even clergy with clean records who ended up being criminals, so maybe we should pay a bit more attention to those with a clean record to make sure they don't become a criminal.

The CNMI is already struggling with a labor challenge and CWs can't work in the cannabis industry so we need these people with a record and the good part is they don't even need to be trained as they are the most knowledgeable people in the CNMI on marijuana. The cannabis industry is a "self-starting" industry, meaning we must start our industry with the marijuana we already have growing and guess who is growing it and who has the best strains of marijuana in the CNMI? Yes, the people with a criminal past. I have studied the CNMI's underground marijuana market and many of the local cultivators have gotten into trouble before. The necessary minimum of 100 different strains of good quality and quantity of marijuana and products are needed to even start the industry. We can't bring in marijuana and seeds so we are stuck with what we have to start the industry so where are we going to get our supply from?

Colorado is already facing a class action for trying to use a person's criminal record to prevent them from involvement in the cannabis industry. It's a violation of federal equal opportunity law plus Colorado is violating federal law by legalizing it! A criminal record has no place in the cannabis industry unless they are an armed enforcement officer because it is federal firearms law. So when trying to impose a restriction on people with a record that will deny people the opportunity at the American dream, one must look in the mirror and to see who are you! Do you truly believe that people can change and not be a criminal for life or are you an unforgiving and prejudicial person playing demigod who damns a person as a criminal for life? We should not look down on a person because of their past as the true challenge is for all of us to just be human and humane in the way we view people.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

MR. PRESIDENT

From Page 10

well-stocked convoy Mexico sent to help victims of Hurricane Harvey. I hope Texas—whose government is waging this petty legal battle to harm immigrant children—is touched as well. This isn't the first time Mexico, a country far less wealthy than the United States, sends help. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Mexico sent soldiers and supplies across the border, and they helped thousands of people who had taken refuge in San Antonio.

No doubt there's a push for urgency with all of the immigration issues piled on your desk, Mr. President. No surprise there. This is a country of immigrants, and no matter how many generations removed from the first wave, that fact remains its beating heart. Policy won't change that, although you can claim a partial victory in that, under your watch, desire to emigrate to this country is plummeting, and so are arrivals.

The fate of the meritorious Dreamers shouldn't rest on the whims of an attorney general with plenty of dirty laundry.

Don't let their American dream end with deportation to a life in a foreign country.

Aimless speculation?

A certain Ms. Marie SC Castro disagrees with my contrarian view about building a monument here for Amelia Earhart. In fact, she said she finds my opinion one of "…great, unexpected surprise…" Amusing the blurred syntax and syntactical construction that lands squarely in sophistry. Is there such a thing as an "expected" surprise? Rhyme and reason are missing!

I fail to see your use of the word "historic." Are you alluding to Earhart's suspect stint here briefly as a prisoner of war of Imperial Japan or her incomplete circumnavigation that ended in Jaluit Island in the Republic of the Marshalls? Was her presence ever factually proven or was it all aimless speculation? Moreover, what's her contribution that factually gave edification to the livelihood of the indigenous people here? Could Ms. Castro answer these queries with a sense of rectitude and certitude?

You insinuated that Uncle Sam funnels millions of dollars into the NMI as freebie. We gave up sovereignty, Ms. Castro, a part of the deal found under the Covenant Agreement or USPL 94-241. The NMI is part of the national security defense of our country! If perchance we turn into ashes from a hydrogen missile from NK, is that sufficient a sacrifice Ms. Castro? So it isn't free, is it?

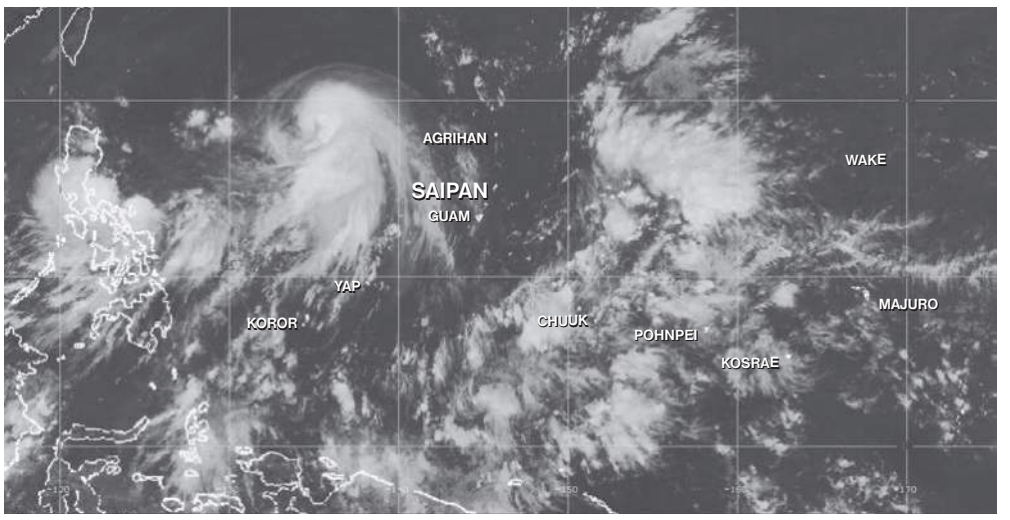
John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:45 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

There were a few showers around this morning, but after a pleasant day on Sunday another looks to be in store today. Then, things will turn wet again as an upper low and surface trough approach from the west. Based on the latest available guidance, I pushed back the start of scattered showers from tonight until Tuesday. With an upper low passing overhead on Tuesday, there should be at least periods of showers. I am less confident about Wednesday. The upper low will be to our west, but there will still be a surface trough and convergence over the region, so while there will be some showers, not sure if they will be scattered. However, wasn`t confident enough to remove scattered from the forecast either. Therefore, left as is for now. By later in the week, conditions improve as some ridging moves in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°
London	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	88° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	66° / 61°
Busan	Sunny	82° / 64°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	72° / 56°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	69° / 61°
Seoul	Sunny	79° / 57°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Washington, DC	Showers	72° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:03 AM	LOW TIDE	0.08
12:32 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
6:14 PM	LOW TIDE	0.92
11:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.83

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:18 AM	11:10 PM
Wednesday	-	12:18 PM	-
Thursday	12:05 AM	1:17 PM	-
Friday	1:02 AM	2:15 PM	-
Saturday	2:01 AM	3:11 PM	-

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

NAVFAC contributes to feed Guam families in need

ASAN, Guam—Employees of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas donated 255 lbs of nonperishable food goods in the 2017 Feds Feed Families food drive campaign that lasted from June 1 to Aug. 31.

Feds Feed Families is an annual campaign organized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and held during summer months to help keep food banks and pantries stocked at a time when they usually see fewer donations and greater need.

"During the summer months people aren't always aware of the needs of those who don't have much—the homeless and the poorest of the poor," said NBG Command Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Colvin, Feds Feed Families coordinator for NBG. "So during the summer months, the Feds Feed Families campaign helps those who have very little, who normally only see those donations during the holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmastime, and Easter."

Drop boxes for the NAVFAC Marianas contributions were placed at six sites from Building 4175 in Santa Rita in the south to NAVFAC Marianas headquarters on Nimitz Hill to NAVFAC offices at Andersen Air Force Base in the north. The donated food was turned over to the Naval Base Guam command chaplain who saw that it was delivered to three local charitable food banks: Catholic Social Service, Salvation Army Guam Corps and Kamalen Karidat soup kitchen for the homeless.

"It was a great team effort for a great cause," said NAVFAC Marianas ensign Joshua Collins, one of the junior officers who helped organize the drive. "We got a chance to bring folks together and give them a chance to express their generosity for the people in need in our community."

NAVFAC Marianas ensign Eric Fallon noted the importance of teamwork to the success of the campaign. "This was a coordinated team effort," he said. "All volunteers were very helpful in soliciting donations in their respective buildings; this campaign would not have been so successful without their help."

All together the Navy in Guam collected approximately 8,960 lbs of food items from various drop-box locations throughout the base, and all were donated to the three local food banks, Colvin said. "As members of the U.S. Navy we are proud to support this effort to help those who are truly in need," he said.

"It gives me personal satisfaction to participate this year and I know my work colleagues share the same feeling," Collins said. "This was another great opportunity for the great folks at NAVFAC Marianas to continue our community outreach."

NAVFAC Marianas has a workforce of approximately 500 civilian employees and 40 military personnel on Guam. ***(USN)***

UOG Sea Grant and Humanities Guåhan promote in-water experience for adults

Marie Auyong, a Sea Grant's extension educator at the University of Guam, will lead a snorkel intro for adults this coming Sunday, Sept. 17, from 2pm to 4pm at the Agaña swimming pool.

This event helps support Humanities Guåhan and Smithsonian Institution's exhibit, *Hita I Hanom*, which explores Guam's cultural, environmental, and spiritual relationship to water.

UOG Sea Grant will provide all gear for $5, cash only. The session starts at 2pm and goes until 4pm, but participants can stay at the pool until closing time. Due to gear size limits, participants should be 12 years old and older. Participants must reserve spots by emailing auyongm@triton.uog.edu or can call 685-4355 for more information.

Auyong is featured in *Hita I Hanom*'s digital video project, *Kintusi I Hanom: Speaking To Water*, which highlights Micronesian voices about the deep cultural importance and meaning of water. Exhibit attendees can view videos of Pacific Islander stories, chants, poetry, and personal narratives at a digital kiosk in the exhibit at the Guam Museum.

In her video, Auyong discusses her concern about peoples' access to the coast as central to issues of environmental justice, cultural practice, and personal health. This past year, she began introducing people to snorkeling in Guam's public pools as a way to alleviate fears of water, increase beach safety, and encourage low-cost, in-water activities.

Participants will start standing in the pool's shallow end and learn how to fit and defog their masks, get comfortable breathing underwater, and practice kicking with fins. There will be professional dive or lifeguard-certified personnel to provide a low participant-instructor ratio.

For more information about the *Hita I Hanom-Water/Ways* exhibit, visit http://www.humanitiesguahan.org. Visitors to the Guam Museum can check it out from 10am to 5pm every day except Monday.

The National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between universities and the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency within the Department of Commerce. The Sea Grant network includes more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, public outreach experts, educators, and students. UOG Sea Grant brings the science of coastal resources to Guam's people as one of 33 programs across the nation. See http://www.cnas-re.uog.edu/ for more information. ***(PR)***

FIELD OF HEROES BRITNEY ATALIG

Fifty-five flags are posted at the Cpl. Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Veteran's Memorial Park as part of the Field of Heroes memorial to honor the 9/11 victims and first responders.

BRITNEY ATALIG

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan delivers special remarks at the Field of Heroes ceremony at the Rota Veteran's Park.

BRITNEY ATALIG

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig delivers his welcoming remarks to the families, guests, and sponsors who came to the 2nd Annual Field of Heroes ceremony on Rota.

BRITNEY ATALIG

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students perform a song to honor the fallen heroes.

The Buck Battalion Color Guard commanded by Capt. Don Ogo presents the colors at the start of the 2nd Annual Field of Heroes ceremony on Rota. BRITNEY ATALIG

Representatives of law enforcement agencies and the Buck Battalion salute the U.S. and the CNMI flags at the 2nd Annual Field of Heroes ceremony on Rota. BRITNEY ATALIG

Business

China's ever-tighter Web controls jolt companies, scientists

AP
In this Aug. 19, 2013 file photo, computer users sit near a monitor display with a message from the Chinese police on the proper use of the Internet at an Internet cafe in Beijing, China.

BEIJING (AP)—Frank Chen's e-commerce business has nothing to do with politics but he worries it might be sunk by the Communist Party's latest effort to control what the Chinese public sees online.

Chen's 25-employee company sells clothes and appliances to Americans and Europeans through platforms including Facebook, one of thousands of websites blocked by China's web filters. Chen reaches it using a virtual private network, but that window might be closing after Beijing launched a campaign in January to stamp out use of VPNs to evade its "Great Firewall."

"Our entire business might be paralyzed," said Chen by phone from the western city of Chengdu. Still, he added later in a text message, "national policy deserves a positive response and we fully support it."

The crackdown threatens to disrupt work and study for millions of Chinese entrepreneurs, scientists and students who rely on websites they can see only with a VPN. The technology, developed to create secure, encrypted links between computers, allows Chinese web users to see a blocked site by hiding the address from government filters.

Astronomers and physicists use services such as Google Scholar and Dropbox, accessible only via VPN, to share research and stay in touch with foreign colleagues. Merchants use Facebook and other blocked social media to find customers. Students look for material in subjects from history to film editing on YouTube and other blocked sites.

Control over information is especially sensitive ahead of October's twice-a-decade ruling party congress at which President Xi Jinping is due to be named to a second five-year term as leader.

The VPN crackdown is part of a campaign to tighten political control that activists say is the most severe since the 1989 suppression of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement.

Dozens of activists and lawyers have been detained. A cybersecurity law that took effect in June tightens control on online data. Regulators have stepped up censorship of social media and video websites.

How many people might be affected is unclear, but consumer research firm GlobalWebIndex said a survey of Chinese web surfers this year found 14 percent use a VPN daily. If that percentage holds for China's total online population of 731 million, it suggests the country might have as many as 100 million regular users.

Some 8.8 percent of people in the survey use VPNs to look at "restricted sites," according to GlobalWebIndex. That would be equivalent to 65 million people, or the population of Britain.

Communist leaders encourage web use for business and education. They want online commerce to help transform China from a low-wage factory into a high-tech consumer society. But they reject the notion of a borderless internet and free flow of information.

Chinese web users without VPNs cannot see the most popular global websites including Google and social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, as well as news outlets and human rights groups.

In the latest crackdown, regulators say only government-authorized VPNs will be allowed. The operator of a popular service, Green VPN, told customers in June it had been ordered to close. Others shut down without warning.

"You have to leave a window for people, for those who need it," said Wen Jian, a securities trader in Beijing.

Wen said he needs to find financial information and Google, accessible only with a VPN, is more effective than Chinese search engines. But his VPN quit working two months ago.

Gibraltar official seeks stronger ties with UK post-Brexit

GIBRALTAR (AP)—For the chief minister of Gibraltar, the British territory's post-Brexit future rests on strengthening its ties with the United Kingdom.

Chief Minister Fabian Picardo told The Associated Press on Sunday that his goal after Britain leaves the European Union in 2019 is to "cement the relationship with the United Kingdom" in terms of both sovereignty and a commercial relationship.

Picardo said he wants to "establish that bilateral relationship of trade to continue the morning after Brexit as if the single market between Gibraltar and the U.K. seamlessly moved from one moment to the next."

Gibraltar, a rocky outcrop at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula with 32,000 residents, has strong economic connections with surrounding Spanish regions. In last year's Brexit vote, 96 percent of Gibraltarians voted for Britain to remain in the EU.

Picardo spoke on the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Gibraltar's inhabitants voted to remain a part of the U.K. and reject Spanish sovereignty.

Spain, however, has never relinquished its claim to Gibraltar, which has a strategic position at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea, since ceding its control over Gibraltar to Britain in 1713.

Picardo said he's hopeful Spain will not use the Brexit negotiations as an opportunity to re-exert control over the territory. He welcomed what he called the "new realism" of Spanish Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis, who became Spain's top diplomat last year.

"I think we have seen since the change ... a new realism emerge into the importance of Brexit for the whole European Union and for this region around Gibraltar of Spain in particular. That this is not a time to exploit opportunities to try and advance the sovereignty claim," Picardo said.

"I think it is a time to preserve the ability of people in Spain to come and work in Gibraltar, the ability of people who work in Gibraltar to live in Spain, and to have that neutrality of interests recognized," he said.

Dastis has said that Madrid's position remains that Britain's control of Gibraltar "violates the territorial integrity of our country."

Negotiations between the EU and the U.K. regarding Britain's exit from the 28-counry bloc are ongoing. In this Aug. 19, 2013 file photo, computer users sit near a monitor display with a message from the Chinese police on the proper use of the Internet at an Internet cafe in Beijing, China. ***(AP)***

Time for boss to get subordinate back in line

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: An employee who was denied a promotion has become openly hostile toward me. "Nate" applied to be the manager of his department but he has neither the skills nor the temperament required for that job. I eventually hired someone from outside who had excellent qualifications.

Nate seems to get along well with his new boss but with me he acts angry and resentful. Whenever I speak to him, he just walks away without saying a word. I have been told that Nate disparages me to his co-workers and constantly complains about the company.

After five months of this, I'm sick and tired of Nate's disrespect. How should I handle this situation?

A: So here's the obvious question: If you are fed up with Nate's insolent attitude, why have you allowed it to continue? As a higher-level manager, you clearly have the clout to get this guy in line, so one wonders why you seem reluctant to do so.

The appropriate time to address the issue was at the beginning of this little drama. As soon as Nate began to sulk and complain, you should have called him in, corrected his behavior, and established expectations for the future.

For example: "Nate, I know you're disappointed about not being promoted. However, your childish reaction has convinced me that I made the right decision. Pouting and whining are not appropriate management behaviors, so you are obviously not ready for that role. Going forward, I expect you to control your emotions and behave like a mature, professional employee."

The good news, however, is that it's not too late to deliver this message. You and Nate's manager should meet with him together and set some specific goals for change. If his behavior improves, thank him for making the effort. But if Nate continues to act like an unhappy 2-year-old, a formal warning may be in order.

Q: I have a disability called Meniere's disease, and it has negatively affected my performance review. My boss told me that I talk too much. The reason for this is that my co-workers often express concern for me, especially when I'm having a bad day. Since my manager doesn't seem to understand this, do you think I should I give him some detailed information about my disease?

A: When someone has a disability, differentiating symptoms from performance issues is sometimes difficult. One method for doing so is to identify which behaviors you are able to control and which you are not.

For example, people with Meniere's disease frequently experience vertigo or periods of hearing loss. Since you can't control those events, your boss needs to understand how they affect your work and provide appropriate accommodations.

On the other hand, "talking too much" is a manageable behavior not related to your disability. You say this results from your co-workers' sympathetic comments, so I suspect the real issue is that their empathic remarks often lead to lengthy personal discussions.

So, if the symptoms of Meniere's interfere with your work, by all means educate your boss about this disorder. But when it comes to excessive talking, you must take personal responsibility for controlling that behavior.

Nation

Punishing winds, rain lash much of Florida

AP
Recently planted palm trees lie strewn across the road as Hurricane Irma passes by, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in Miami Beach, Fla.

MIAMI (AP)—Hurricane Irma gave Florida a coast-to-coast pummeling with winds up to 130 mph Sunday, swamping homes and boats, knocking out power to millions and toppling massive construction cranes over the Miami skyline.

The 400-mile-wide (640-kilometer-wide) storm blew ashore in the mostly cleared-out Florida Keys, then marched up its western coast, its punishing winds extending clear across to Miami and West Palm Beach on the Atlantic side.

Irma was nearing the heavily populated Tampa-St. Petersburg area late Sunday, though in a much-weakened state. While it arrived in Florida a Category 4 hurricane, by nightfall it was down to a Category 2 with winds of 100 mph (160 kph). Meanwhile, more than 160,000 people waited in shelters statewide as Irma headed up the coast.

There were no immediate reports of deaths in Florida. In the Caribbean, at least 24 were people were killed during Irma's destructive trek.

Bryan Koon, Florida's emergency management director, said late Sunday that authorities had only scattered information about the storm's toll, but he remained hopeful.

"I've not heard of catastrophic damage. It doesn't mean it doesn't exist. It means it hasn't gotten to us yet," Koon said.

In the low-lying Keys, where a storm surge of over 10 feet (3 meters) was recorded, appliances and furniture were seen floating away, and Monroe County spokeswoman Cammy Clark said the ocean waters were filled with navigation hazards, including sunken boats. But the full extent of Irma's wrath there was not clear.

The county administrator, Roman Gastesi, said crews would begin house-to-house searches Monday to check on survivors. And an airborne relief mission, led by C-130 military cargo planes, was gearing up to bring emergency supplies to the Keys.

Storm surge was a big concern. The National Hurricane Center said a federal tide gauge in Naples reported a 7-foot (more than 2-meter) rise in water levels in just 90 minutes late Sunday.

Many streets were flooded in downtown Miami and other cities.

In downtown Miami, two of the two dozen construction cranes looming over the skyline collapsed in the wind. A third crane was reported down in Fort Lauderdale. No injuries were reported.

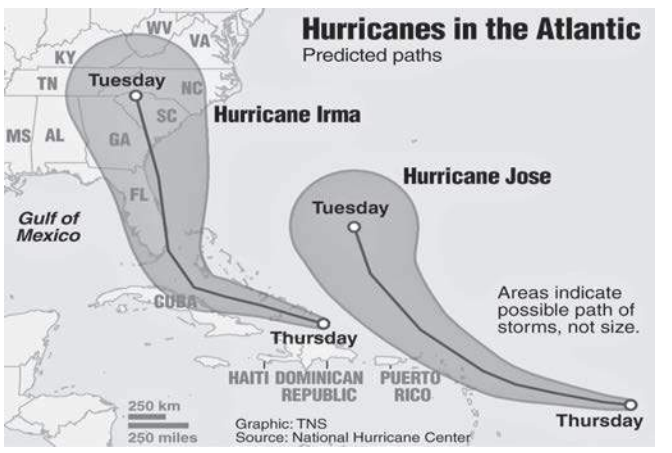
A Miami woman who went into labor was guided through delivery by phone when authorities couldn't reach her because of high winds and street flooding. Firefighters later took her to the hospital.

An apparent tornado spun off by Irma destroyed six mobile homes in Palm Bay, midway up the Atlantic coast. Flooding was reported along Interstate 4, which cuts across Florida's midsection.

Curfews were imposed in Miami, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and much of the rest of South Florida, and some arrests of violators were reported. Miami Beach barred outsiders from the island.

Fort Lauderdale police arrested nine people they said were caught on TV cameras looting sneakers and other items from a sporting goods store and a pawn shop during the hurricane.

More than 3.3 million homes and businesses across the state lost power, and utility officials said it will take weeks to restore electricity to everyone.



While Irma raked Florida's Gulf Coast, forecasters warned that the entire state was in danger because of the sheer size of the storm.

US commemorates 9/11; thousands expected at ground zero

NEW YORK (AP)—While the U.S. contends with the destruction caused by two ferocious hurricanes in three weeks, Americans also are marking the anniversary of one of the nation's most scarring days.

Thousands of 9/11 victims' relatives, survivors, rescuers and others are expected to gather Monday at the World Trade Center to remember the deadliest terror attack on American soil.

Sixteen years later, the quiet rhythms of commemoration have become customs: a recitation of all the names of the dead, moments of silence and tolling bells, and two powerful light beams that shine through the night.

Yet each ceremony also takes on personal touches. Over the years, some name-readers have added messages ranging from the universal ("the things we think separate us really don't - we're all part of this one Earth") to the personal ("I love you and miss you. Go Packers!").

"Thank you, New York, for continuing to honor the victims of 9/11 and the privilege of reading their names," Judy Bram Murphy added last year. She lost her husband, Brian Joseph Murphy.

Nearly 3,000 people died when hijacked planes slammed into the trade center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 11, 2001, hurling America into a new consciousness of the threat of global terrorism.

President Donald Trump, a native New Yorker observing the anniversary for the first time as the nation's leader, is scheduled to observe a moment of silence at about the time the first airplane hit. The White House said he is to be joined by first lady Melania Trump.

He also planned to participate in a 9/11 observance at the Pentagon. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are hosting a private observance for victims' relatives there at 9:11 a.m. Monday. After the names are read at that ceremony, there's a public observance, with a wreath-laying and remarks.

Vice President Mike Pence and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke are scheduled to deliver remarks at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville. It's on the rural field where one of the airliners crashed after passengers and crew fought to wrest control away from the terrorists who'd hijacked it and were heading for Washington.

Construction continues at the Shanksville memorial, where ground was broken Sunday for a 93-foot (28 meters) tall Tower of Voices to honor the 33 passengers and seven crew members who died.

The ceremony amid the waterfall pools and lines of trees on the National Sept. 11 Memorial plaza strives to be apolitical: Politicians can attend, but since 2011, they haven't been allowed to read names or deliver remarks.

Yet last year's 15th-anniversary ceremony became entangled in the narrative of a fractious presidential campaign when Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton left abruptly, stumbled into a van and ultimately revealed she'd been diagnosed days earlier with pneumonia.

The episode fed into questions that then-Republican-nominee Trump had repeatedly raised about Clinton's stamina and transparency. She took three days off to recover, and Trump used footage of her stagger in a campaign ad.

Trump has often invoked his memories of 9/11 to highlight his hometown's resilience and responders' bravery. Some of his recollections have raised eyebrows, particularly remarks while talking about Muslims that "thousands of people were cheering" in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the towers fell. There is no evidence in news archives of mass celebrations by Muslims there.

Asia

Myanmar accused of laying mines after refugee injuries

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—Myanmar's military has been accused of planting land mines in the path of Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in its western Rakhine state, with Amnesty International reporting two people wounded Sunday.

Refugee accounts of the latest spasm of violence in Rakhine have typically described shootings by soldiers and arson attacks on villages. But there are at least several cases that point to anti-personnel land mines or other explosives as the cause of injuries on the border with Bangladesh, where 300,000 Rohingya have fled in the past two weeks.

■ ■ ■

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—The Bangladesh government says it has offered a plot of land for a new camp to shelter Rohingya Muslims who have fled recent violence in Myanmar.

The violence has driven nearly 300,000 Rohingya to flee Buddhist-majority Myanmar, with many of them packed into existing camps or huddled in makeshift settlements that have mushroomed along roadsides and in open fields across Cox's Bazar district on the border.

Bangladesh's junior Foreign Minister Mohammed Shahriar Alam said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had 2 acres (.8 hectares) near the existing camp of Kutupalong "to build temporary shelters for the Rohingya newcomers," according to a message posted Monday on his Facebook account.

■ ■ ■

He also said the government would be registering the new arrivals on Monday. Hasina is scheduled to visit Rohingya refugees on Tuesday.

AP

In this Sept. 4, 2017, file photo, an injured elderly woman and her relatives rush to a hospital on an autorickshaw, near the border town of Kutupalong, Bangladesh, after the Rohingya woman encountered a landmine that blew off the right leg while trying to cross into Bangladesh.

AP reporters on the Bangladesh side of the border on Monday saw an elderly woman with devastating leg wounds: one leg with the calf apparently blown off and the other also badly injured. Relatives said she had stepped on a land mine.

Myanmar has one of the few militaries, along with North Korea and Syria, that has openly used anti-personnel land mines in recent years, according to Amnesty. An international treaty in 1997 outlawed the use of the weapons.

Lt. Col S.M. Ariful Islam, commanding officer of the Bangladesh border guard in Teknaf, said on Friday he was aware of at least three Rohingya injured in explosions.

Bangladeshi officials and Amnesty researchers believe new explosives have been recently planted, including one that the rights group said blew off a Bangladeshi farmer's leg and another that wounded a Rohingya man. Both incidents occurred Sunday. It said at least three people including two children were injured in the past week.

"It may not be land mines, but I know there have been isolated cases of Myanmar soldiers planting explosives three to four days ago," Ariful said Friday.

Myanmar Presidential spokesman Zaw Htay did not answer phone calls seeking comment Sunday. Military spokesman Myat Min Oo said he couldn't comment without talking to his superiors. A major at the Border Guard Police headquarters in northern Maungdaw near the Bangladesh border also refused to comment.

Amnesty said that based on interviews with eyewitnesses and analysis by its own weapons experts, it believes there is "targeted use of landlines" along a narrow stretch of the north-western border of Rakhine state that is a crossing point for fleeing Rohingya.

"All indications point to the Myanmar security forces deliberately targeting locations that Rohingya refugees use as crossing points," Amnesty official Tirana Hassan said in a statement Sunday. "This a cruel and callous way of adding to the misery of people fleeing a systematic campaign of persecution."

The violence and exodus began on Aug. 25 when Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar police and paramilitary posts in what they said was an effort to protect their ethnic minority from persecution by security forces in the majority Buddhist country.

US calls for Monday vote on new North Korea sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States called for a vote Monday on new U.N. sanctions against North Korea, though exactly what measures would be in the resolution remained a mystery.

Security Council diplomats, who weren't authorized to speak publicly because talks have been private, said the U.S. and China were still negotiating the text late Sunday.

Previous U.N. sanctions resolutions have been negotiated between the United States and China—North Korea's main trading partner and ally—and have taken weeks, and in some cases months, to finalize.

But the Trump administration adopted a totally new approach with this resolution, presenting its draft to China and all other Security Council members last Tuesday and demanding a vote in six days. Diplomats said China's U.N. ambassador, Liu Jieyi, who was on a Security Council trip to Ethiopia, flew back to New York on Thursday to take part in negotiations.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a statement early Monday saying it was watching the United States' moves closely and warned that it was "ready and willing" to respond with measures of its own. It said the U.S. would pay a heavy price if the sanctions proposed by Washington are adopted.

Ethiopia's U.N. mission, the current Security Council president, said late Sunday that members would vote on a North Korea resolution following a meeting Monday afternoon on implementing existing sanctions against the Pyongyang government.

The draft circulated by the United States called for imposing the toughest-ever U.N. sanctions on North Korea, including a ban on all oil and natural gas exports to the country and a freeze of all foreign financial assets of the government and its leader, Kim Jong Un.

The U.S. is also seeking to ban all countries from hiring workers from the North and from importing textiles from the northeast Asian nation—two key sources of foreign currency.

In another key measure, the U.S. draft identified nine ships that have carried out activities prohibited by previous U.N. sanctions resolutions. The draft would authorize the 192 other U.N. member states to stop these ships on the high seas to check their cargo without their consent. It would permit the use of "all necessary measures," which in U.N. language includes force, to carry out an inspection and direct the vessel to a port.

Whether those provisions would remain in any resolution put to a vote Monday remained to be seen.

Beijing and Moscow have called for a resolution that focuses on a political solution and proposed a freeze-for-freeze that would halt North Korean nuclear and missile tests in exchange for the U.S. and South Korea stopping their joint military exercises. That initiative was rejected by the Trump administration.

ASIA BRIEFS

N. Korea warms of harsh response if new sanctions imposed

TOKYO (AP)—North Korea says it will make the United States pay a heavy price if a proposal Washington is backing to impose the toughest sanctions ever on Pyongyang is approved by the U.N. Security Council this week. The North's Foreign Ministry issued a statement Monday saying it is watching the United States' moves closely and threatened it is "ready and willing" to respond with measures of its own. The United States has called for a vote Monday on new U.N. sanctions against North Korea. Last Tuesday, the U.S. circulated a draft resolution proposing the toughest-ever U.N. sanctions on North Korea, including a ban on all oil and natural gas exports to the country and a freeze on all foreign financial assets of the government and its leader, Kim Jong Un.

Advance voting begins in closely fought New Zealand election

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Advance voting began Monday for New Zealand's general election, which could see a change of government in the South Pacific nation for the first time in nine years. Election officials say just over 3 million voters are enrolled for the Sept. 23 election, in the country of nearly 5 million people. Opinion polls indicate it will be a close race between the conservative National Party, led by Prime Minister Bill English, and the liberal Labour Party, led by Jacinda Ardern. Six weeks ago the conservatives were comfortably ahead in the polls and appeared to be coasting to a fourth consecutive victory. But then the Labour Party leader quit and 37-year-old Ardern took the reins, sparking a rapid rise in the party's fortunes that some are calling "Jacindamania."

Shark bites surfer's board in half off Australian east coast

SYDNEY (AP)—A 35-year-old surfer was taken to a hospital after a shark snapped his board, tore his hip and flung him into the air Sunday off the Australian east coast. Abe McGarth was surfing at Iluka on the north coast of New South Wales state Sunday when what he described as a 3.5-meter (11-foot) great white shark attacked the board from underneath, a police statement said. "As a result of the impact, the board has snapped. The injured victim has gone into the air and then re-entered the water," the statement said. "He has told police the shark began to circle and then turned away," police said. McGrath grabbed half his board and surfed to shore, police said. McGrath's friends drove him to Ballina Hospital. He was then flown to Lismore Hospital for further treatment and discharged Sunday night.

World

Death toll now at 90 as aftershocks rattle southern Mexico

JUCHITAN, Mexico (AP)—Life for many has moved outdoors in the quake-shocked city of Juchitan, where a third of the homes are reported uninhabitable and repeated aftershocks have scared people away from many structures still standing.

The city on Sunday was littered with rubble from Thursday night's magnitude 8.1 earthquake, which killed at least 90 people across southern Mexico—at least three dozen of them in Juchitan itself.

Officials in Oaxaca and Chiapas states said thousands of houses and hundreds of schools had been damaged or destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of people were reported to be without water service.

Many people continued to sleep outside, fearful of more collapses, as strong aftershocks continued to rattle the town, including a magnitude 5.2 jolt early Sunday.

Some Juchitecos seeking solace trekked through the destruction to find an open-air Mass on Sunday since many of the churches were either damaged or left vacant until they could be checked.

On Sunday evening, Bishop Oscar Campos Contreras conducted Mass for about 200 people at an open-air basketball court next to a collapsed school and in front of the heavily damaged St. Vicente Ferrer church, which lost one bell tower and very nearly the other.

Campos told those gathered that Mass would continue to be held outdoors for the foreseeable future, "because here we feel safer."

Friends and family embraced and cried, overcome with emotion stored for days.

The bishop's homily was part lesson and part pep talk for a community stunned by the destruction.

"There is no one who can say: 'Nothing happened to me because of my money, because of my strength or my youth or my prestige or my fame nothing happened,'" Campos said. "We are all weak."

Yesenia Cruz Jimenez was relieved to hear Mass would be held outdoors. Her house broke apart and her family is still sleeping in the yard, suffering rain and aftershocks.

"There is nowhere safe in town," she said. "It is safer here and people can concentrate better in this place."

Local officials said they had counted nearly 800 aftershocks of all sizes since the big quake, and the U.S. Geological Survey counted nearly 60 with a magnitude of 4.5 or greater.

Oaxaca Gov. Alejandro Murat said Sunday that the death toll in his state had risen to 71, while officials have reported 19 killed in Chiapas and Tabasco states.

Juchitan's downtown streets grew increasingly congested Sunday as dump trucks and heavy equipment hauled away debris and pushed smaller piles of debris into larger mountains of rubble.

Teams of soldiers and federal police with shovels and sledgehammers fanned out across neighborhoods to help demolish damaged buildings. Volunteers, many teens from religious or community groups in surrounding towns that were not as severely hit, turned out in force to distribute water and clothing or lend a hand.

Help was slower to arrive in Union Hidalgo, a town of about 20,000 people about 30 minutes to the east. Collapsed homes pocked neighborhoods there, and the town lacked electricity, water and cellphone service.

Delia Cruz Valencia stood in a puddle-filled street overseeing demolition of what remained of her sister's house next door. Her sister took their mother for medical treatment outside the city before the earthquake and had not been able to make her way back. Men with pry bars ripped away the bottom half of a brick and stucco exterior wall to rescue a large wooden wardrobe because the house was too unstable to access through the door.

Cruz said she was next door with her two daughters when the earthquake struck shortly before midnight Thursday.

"We all three hugged, but even so we were moving. We were pushed from here to there" by the rolling earth, she said.

Men work to pull down a remaining section of roof as they demolish a home destroyed by Thursday's magnitude 8.1 earthquake, in Asuncion Ixtaltepec, Oaxaca state, Mexico, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017.
AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Stateless Mikheil Saakashvili breaks through into Ukraine

SHEHYNI, Ukraine (AP)—Mikheil Saakashvili and a small crowd of supporters shoved their way through a line of guards at the Ukrainian border Sunday, making good on the politician's vow to return to the land that had stripped him of citizenship. The return of the divisive and headstrong Saakashvili, who became governor of Ukraine's Odessa region after being Georgian president from 2004-13, poses a strong challenge to Ukrainian Petro Poroshenko, who once was Saakashvili's patron but then revoked his citizenship in July. Saakashvili was appointed to the Odessa post in 2015 on the strength of his record of fighting corruption in Georgia. However he resigned the post after only 18 months, complaining that official corruption in Ukraine was so entrenched he could not work effectively. The return carries risks for Saakashvili, who is stateless. Georgia, where he faces accusations of abuse of power and misappropriation of property, has sent an extradition request for him to Ukraine. It is not clear if Ukraine intends to honor that request. Prosecutor-General Yuri Lutsenko said late Sunday that charges would be pursued against organizers of Saakashvili's unauthorized entry. The Ukrainian Interior Ministry said 17 police and border guards were injured in the confrontation.

Suicide bomber hits central Somalia town, kills 4

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A Somali police officer says a suicide bomber blew himself up near a government office in a central Somali town Sunday, killing at least four people. Col. Sabrie Ahmed said the bomber apparently intended to enter the regional administration's headquarters in Beledweyne, the provincial capital of Hiran province, but instead detonated an explosive belt strapped around his waist in a teashop outside the offices. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. However, Somalia's Islamic extremist insurgents, al-Shabab, often carry out such attacks.

More aid, evacuations in Caribbean islands battered by Irma

HAVANA (AP)—With ports mended and weather cleared, officials sent in more aid and arranged stepped-up evacuations Monday in remote Caribbean islands devastated and cut off by Hurricane Irma.

Many in the chain of Leeward Islands known as the playground for the rich and famous have criticized governments for failing to respond quickly to the disaster caused by the Category 5 hurricane.

The storm stripped the islands' formerly lush green hills to a brown stubble and flattened buildings, then swamped much of Cuba's coastline, including Havana's iconic Malecon seawall.

At least 24 people died in Anguilla, Barbuda, the French-Dutch island of St. Martin, St. Barts, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Among them was a 2-year-old boy swept away when his home filled with water.

Residents have reported shortages of food, water and medicine, and many have complained of looting.

The U.S. government said it was sending a flight Monday to evacuate its citizens from one of the hardest hit islands, St. Martin. Evacuees were warned to expect long lines and no running water at the airport.

A Royal Caribbean Cruise Line ship was expected to dock near St. Martin to help in the aftermath, and a boat was bringing a 5-ton crane capable of unloading large shipping containers filled with aid. A French military ship was scheduled to arrive Tuesday with materials to build temporary housing.

Some 70 percent of the beds at the main hospital in the French portion of St. Martin were severely damaged, and more than 100 people in need of urgent medical care have been evacuated. Eight of the territory's 11 pharmacies were destroyed, and Guadeloupe was sending medication.

On Tuesday, French President Emmanuel Macron was scheduled to arrive in St. Martin to bring aid and fend off criticism that he didn't do enough to respond to the storm's wrath.

Focus

AP

In this Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017, photo, Bryan Harvey of Harvey's Towing in Rosenberg, Texas, tows a flooded car in the nearby town of Katy. Following the record flooding brought on by Hurricane Harvey, tow companies have hauled hundreds of thousands of water-logged vehicles. The storm inflicted an automotive catastrophe on a car-centric city whose dependence on vehicles is likely to slow its recovery.

Houston struggles after loss of autos

By PAUL WISEMAN and DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

KATY, Texas (AP)—Bryan Harvey is frequently reminded that he shares a name with the storm that dumped 50 inches of rain on metropolitan Houston and unleashed the floods that have him working 14-hour days towing water-logged cars.

Even in their despair, some victims have salvaged a smile by posing for pictures in front of the "Harvey's Towing" sign on the side of his red Dodge Ram 5500 flat-bed truck.

More than a week after Harvey slammed Houston, wreckers like Bryan Harvey are still hauling cars and trucks from flooded neighborhoods to dealerships or to vast fields where insurance adjusters can assess the damage. Harvey killed at least 70 people, destroyed or damaged 200,000 homes—and inflicted an automotive catastrophe on one of America's most car-dependent cities.

The Houston area has lost hundreds of thousands of cars, says Michael Hartmann, general manager of Don McGill Toyota of Katy, a city of 17,000 about 30 miles west of Houston. "We have a shortage of rental cars and people not sure how to go about handling claims and just what to do with their lives."

The wreckage has forced Houstonians to scramble to try to rent or borrow cars or to work from home—if they can. Some have it worse: They can't return to work until they resolve the transportation problems, depriving many of them of income and slowing the city's return to business as usual.

WHERE CARS ARE EVERYTHING

Few American cities depend on cars as much as Houston. More than 94 percent of the city's households have cars, second only to Dallas, the Cox Automotive consultancy says. Houston is even less amenable to walking, bicycle-riding and mass transit than freeway-mad Los Angeles, according to Walk Score, which promotes walkable communities.

Fourteen-lane highways link downtown Houston to its sprawling suburbs. Off-ramps are stacked five-high at some interchanges, inducing vertigo for motorists unschooled in driving Houston-style. Outside the city center, isolated islands of office towers are connected only by concrete and asphalt.

Cars are "everything here," Hartmann says. "Cars are part of a person's lifestyle. Most people in our area work 25, 30 miles from home."

Houston is used to flooding. But it had never seen anything like Harvey, which dropped a year's worth of rain onto the metro area. Flooded roads and neighborhoods left cars submerged and, in most cases, impossible to salvage.

"Almost every square inch of your vehicle has wires in it," says Rebecca Lindland, executive analyst at Cox Automotive. "The materials are often flame-retardant, but they are not waterproof."

Cox estimates that up to 500,000 cars and trucks were damaged or destroyed, amounting to nearly $5 billion in damage. Auto insurance claims have reached 160,000, according to the Insurance Council of Texas. Cars are being taken by the hundreds to a makeshift lot at the 500-acre Royal Purple Raceway in Baytown, about 35 miles east of town. Most of the time, the insurance adjusters shake their heads at the damage Harvey has wrought and declare the cars a total loss.

"Put yourself in the shoes of the adjuster," says Mark Hanna, a spokesman for the Texas insurance council. "He's just seen, say, a 2015 Toyota Camry. He knows this vehicle has been underwater for six days. They can look at it, but they know water is all throughout that vehicle. They know it is totaled ... He's going to see the same vehicle many times."

Many insurers are reluctant even to try to repair cars that risk further problems and repairs later.

In the meantime, there's a desperate shortage of rental cars. Enterprise Holdings, which includes the Enterprise, National and Alamo brands, has moved thousands of vehicles to southeast Texas and plans to have brought in at least 17,000 by the end of September. The Avis Budget Group, which operates Avis and Budget, is moving 10,000 vehicles into the affected areas, waiving late fees, one-way rental fees and rental extension fees in and around Houston.

RETHINKING SUBURBAN SPRAWL?

Tanya Dubose, executive director of the redevelopment council in Houston's Independence Heights neighborhood, loved her car, a 2010 Chevrolet Equinox with 140,000 miles on it. She kept her files in the backseat, along with paperwork on her family genealogy, a hobby of hers.

"I use my car for everything—to go to meetings, to lug people around," she says. "It was my office. It had Bluetooth speakers, so I could do business."

The Equinox has been missing since Harvey hit. The vehicle had been in the shop undergoing work, and the surrounding neighborhood was flooded.

"I have no idea where my car is," Dubose says.

She can't reach the mechanic who'd been working on it. Flooded out of her home, she's been getting rides from friends and has set up shop in a hotel near the George R. Brown Convention Center to help Harvey victims.

In Katy, Ysabel Saez, her partner and three daughters fled their apartment by wading through chest-deep water, leaving behind a Ford Escape sport utility and an F-150 pickup. Both had been swamped. Her Escape was insured; her partner's pickup wasn't. Without a ride, he's been unable to get to his job at an audio-visual company near the George Bush International Airport, over 40 miles away.

"We were doing fine," says Saez, who works as a nanny. "Now we're so behind. We want to get back to where we were."

Urban planners, like Kyle Shelton of Rice University in Houston, say the city and its suburbs were ill-prepared for a storm like Harvey.

"We've lost 500,000 to 1 million cars," he says. "How are those people getting around now?"

Bus and train service is limited, especially in suburban areas such as Sugar Land, which never joined the region's transit authority. The region would benefit if people were living closer together rather than spread out over 2,000 square miles as they are now.

"Denser places would be more easily served and better connected to emergency services," says Shelton, director of strategic partnerships at Rice's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, who wonders whether Harvey will change attitudes toward suburban sprawl and the area's dependence on cars.

Hartmann at the Toyota dealership is skeptical: "I don't think it will change anything." Car culture runs too deep.

CARS LIKE BOATS

These days, Bryan Harvey, who runs a one-man towing operation, starts work at 7 a.m. and gets home after 9 p.m. Cellphones and police scanners let him know when someone needs a tow. The phone rings.

"I'm coming that-away," he says en route to a drenched Kia Rio.

As Harvey tows the Kia, Jessica Kong mentions that it's the third car her family has lost to the storm. An employee for a billing company, she's been working from home. Others in her household have borrowed cars from family and friends to get around.

"Good thing we have a lot of family," she says.

Harvey pulls away in search of another stranded, water-logged car.

Sporting a tattoo, a knee brace and crucifix necklace, Harvey maneuvers his truck through Katy's muddy residential streets, past homes where mattresses, drywall and other debris are piled up on what used to be neat suburban lawns. In some places, the streets remain filled with a foot or more of water. Harvey drives cautiously to protect his truck and avoid swamping other vehicles in his wake.

Other motorists aren't so careful and stall in the flooded streets.

"Houstonians think their cars are boats," he says. "It's a recurring thing. They are attracted to it like bugs to light."

Harvey has car problems of his own. His youngest daughter was flooded out of her home and is living at his place. She also lost her car. She's borrowing a car from Harvey's girlfriend, who, in turn, is borrowing Harvey's. He doesn't need it much. He spends most of his time working in the Dodge Ram.

On Tuesday, he did five double loads—10 cars—and ended up giving someone a ride after hours. He staggered home around 11.

"I drank a beer," he says, "and went to sleep."

Overdrive

2018 Toyota Camry is anything but boring

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TNS

2018 Toyota Camry XSE features 19-inch black wheels standard, larger front air intakes, a split X-wing grille, and has a two-inch longer wheelbase and one-inch lower ride height for improved handling and sportier appearance. Pictured at Arlington Park Racetrack in Arlington Heights, Ill., on August 16, 2017.

Neighbors flagged it down in the middle of the street. Friends asked for a ride. The teenager in the parking lot stopped and gaped. "Is that the 2018?" It was not the latest Porsche turning heads, nor was it some high-revving supercar or ultra-luxe land yacht — it was the 2018 Toyota Camry.

It's not the typical head turner, yet America's best-selling car for the past 15 years has captured garages and parking spots unlike any other vehicle aside from pickup trucks. Enthusiasts and critics deride it as nothing more than an appliance, but those who matter most — the ones buying the cars — prefer the midsize sedan's accessibility, reliability and overall value.

Its popularity has also contributed to its recent demise, with conservative and almost indiscernible refreshes as other automakers dramatically restyled their midsize sedans to compete not only with the Camry but also to stop the sales slide away from sedans to crossovers.

Through July 2017, Camry has been outsold by the excellent Honda Civic compact, which was aggressively redesigned for 2016, winning North American Car of the Year honors.

Last redesigned in 2012, the eighth-generation Camry was overdue. It's common for sales of a car model to slide at the end of its product cycle as consumers anticipate the next big thing, but the Camry is down nearly 10 percent from last year at this time. The Honda Accord, which just debuted a sleek new fastback style for 2018, was down only 5 percent by comparison.

Toyota didn't get to be the world's largest automaker by ignoring such things.

"Now I know calling a Camry 'sexy' might be overstating it for some," Toyota President and racer Akio Toyoda announced in January at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. "But I truly do believe our designers hit it out of the park this time."

The wheelbase is stretched 2 inches, and the height and seating position is lowered an inch to maintain headroom. The lowered hood, combined with the broad grille and wheels pushed to the edges, gives it the low and wide stance attributed to sport sedans.

The XSE, and the reaction it got in our week around town, best embodies Toyota's intent. First offered in the refreshed 2015 model, the XSE is the most sporting of five trim levels. It's also the priciest, coming in at $10,000 more than the base model but loaded with everything.

XSE comes with more pronounced rocker panels to emphasize the longer wheelbase, 19-inch blacked-out wheels come standard and the fascia has larger air intakes reminiscent of the new Civic. The X-wing grille, with a wide mouth on the bottom, is an approximation of the Lexus spindle grille. There's a lot going on up front, maybe too much, but it's anything but boring.

The most sporting element in the new Camry XSE is something the new Honda Accord won't have: a V-6 engine.

The motor kicks out 301 horsepower and 267 pound-feet of torque from the front wheels, increases of 33 horsepower and 19 pound-feet over the old six. It's responsive and has a nice low rumble at around 3,000 rpm. It'll surprise Camry doubters from the line, and pleases all reasonable passing moves. It feels more direct and capable than most turbocharged four-cylinders we've tested. It's an interesting play by Toyota, sticking with the V-6 Americans love even as most other automakers — including its chief rival — have ditched it for the more efficient turbo four.

Paired to the quick-shifting eight-speed transmission, the new high air-flow powertrain is more efficient by 2 mpg, to 26 mpg combined.

The radical makeover carries over inside, which uses a nice balance of layered soft-touch materials. The dash is defined by what Toyota calls a waterfall element, with the driver's side and passenger side tapering together in a Y at the center console, where the grab handle is in sports coupes. The focal point is a glossy, glasslike center stack that is bigger on ambition than good use of real estate. Above the sleek climate buttons is Toyota's familiar 8-inch touch screen flanked by four silver bar buttons on both sides. If drivers using their phones while driving is a bad idea, then drivers using a tablet-sized touchscreen is a worse idea. I don't like touch screens, especially Toyota's. The font choice and layout would feel fresh only if you haven't shopped for a car in a decade. The functionality is limited, the navigation buttons still too narrowly and oddly placed, and aesthetically it's not as freshly executed as the rest of the interior.

The new 7-inch information display between the cluster alleviates some of the need to use the touch screen, but here too the real estate is wasted on icons for advanced safety features that you can't do much with other than shut on and off. It's not a deal breaker, just a plea for Toyota to get with the infotainment times. It's the kind of system you set everything once and hope you don't have to bother with it again. And it can't be overridden with Apple Car Play or Android Auto, which are not offered.

The price might seem steep for the XSE, but that's about the average price Americans are paying for a new car. And when you consider the safety features that come standard, and the potent V-6 at a time of diminishing engine choices, the new Camry proves its worth inside and out. Is it enough to regain its best-selling car claim from the Civic before year's end? Based on the initial impressions around the neighborhood, yes.

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Toyota Camry XSE at a glance

- Vehicle type: Midsize sedan
- Base price: $34,950
- As tested: $36,960 (excluding $895 delivery)
- EPA MPG: 22 city, 32 highway
- Engine: 3.5-liter V-6
- Transmission: 8-speed automatic
- Parting shot: America's best-selling car gets new life.

New cars offer no good space to store a purse

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q: Do you have any insight if the trend to have the console fill the entire area between the front seats will continue? I do not care for this style, as I like to keep my purse on the floor between the seats regardless of if I have a passenger in the front seat or not. I drive a Honda CRV 2007 and prefer that added space provided. The consoles now appear confining to me and leave no space for personal items. Thanks for any input you may have.

— S.S., Orland Park, Ill.

A: We did some research and could not find any new automobiles with a gap between the seats. All seem to have some sort of console, although some seem to be rather meager. A couple of the consoles look like they could be removed, but there may be no carpet beneath them. Although cars no longer have bench seats, some pickup trucks and SUVs still do.

Q: Why can I not find out what company supplied the air bags for my 2016 Toyota Camry XLE? I've run the gamut from car dealer to factory to corporate headquarters to the highway safety department. My Camry has 800 miles on it and will stay parked until I feel safe.

A: Go ahead. Drive your car. Manufacturers are not installing bad air bags on any cars since the debacle with Takata. You won't get carmakers to divulge where they got anything, even the horn.

Q: Your comments are, from time to time, of value to me. However, in your column on August 13, you wrote, in connection with oncoming cars that do not have headlights on, "Blinking your lights at oncoming cars is still a useful reminder." Let me point out the suggested action may be in violation of the Illinois Rules of the Road driving manual, which states that, "Bright lights must be dimmed 500 feet before meeting an oncoming vehicle."

A: Blinking your lights as a reminder to others that theirs are not on probably won't get you into trouble. It is more of a courtesy than a felony. Doing the same to alert others to a speed trap, though, might. Some offenses are just not worth an officer's time to pursue. When is the last time you saw someone get a ticket for failing to make a complete stop at a stop sign? Cut through a gas station to avoid a red light? Drive with ear buds inserted?

Q: My wife's 2004 RAV-4 developed a slight hesitation with the first start of the day and has gotten worse. I have tried premium gas and a fuel system cleaner (Techron) to no avail. My mechanic suggested turning the ignition on and waiting 15-20 seconds, but that did not help much. Both Toyota and my mechanic agree that they cannot trace the problem until the engine light comes on. Any suggestions?

A: After more than a decade, there is probably a buildup of gunk inside the throttle body as well as the idle air control valve. We suggest getting the throttle body cleaned and, if it is particularly nasty, the IAC valve should be replaced.

Life & Style

Giant portrait of toddler peers over US-Mexico border wall

TECATE, Calif. (AP)—A photo of a giant toddler stands in Mexico and peers over a steel wall dividing the country from the United States.

The boy appears to grip the barrier with his fingers, leaving the impression the entire thing could be toppled with a giggle.

A French artist who goes by the moniker "JR" erected the cut-out of the boy that stands nearly 65 feet (20 meters) tall and is meant to prompt discussion of immigration.

On Friday, a steady stream of people drove to the remote section of wall near the Tecate border crossing, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southeast of San Diego. Border Patrol agents warned visitors to keep the dirt road clear for their patrols and not pass anything through the fence.

Elmond Davantes, a software developer from Carlsbad, California, took photos from the U.S. side.

"It's larger than life," he said. "It just draws attention to the whole issue in a positive way."

AP

A Border Patrol vehicle drives in front of a mural in Tecate, Mexico, just beyond a border structure Friday, Sept. 8, 2017, in Tecate, Calif.

On the Mexican side, families scrambled down a scrubby hillside to take selfies with the artwork. Children in school uniforms played tag under the scaffolding supporting the photo.

People on each side of the wall waved to each other.

Salma Montoya, 18, a student in Tecate said her town is abuzz about it.

"It's beautiful," she said.

JR has done other large-scale portraits around the world, with much of his recent work focused on immigrants.

He told reporters at Wednesday's unveiling of the portrait that he was spurred by a dream in which he imagined a kid looking over the border wall.

"And when I woke up, I wondered: 'What was he thinking?'" he said. "Like for us we know all the implications, what it represents, how it divides, but for a kid, I didn't have the answer."

A year later when JR was scouting for the perfect spot for his project, he noticed a house in Tecate near the border wall. He and a Mexican friend knocked on the door to see about the possibility of locating it around there. After they drove away, it occurred to him that the 1-year-old at the home who had been staring at them reminded him of the boy he had dreamed about.

JR and his friend immediately went back. JR asked the woman if he could photograph her son. She knew his work and agreed.

The artwork was unveiled the week President Donald Trump said he would end a program that has allowed young immigrants who were brought to America illegally as children to remain in the country.

The administration also accepted more proposals for its plans to build a continuous wall along the nearly 2,000-mile border.

JR said he did not intend for the project in Tecate to coincide with the news about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA.

JR has worked for years to highlight the "Ellis Islands of today," which has taken him from the shores of Italy where migrants have been arriving by boat from Africa to the California desert.

"Now as an artist I think that it's amazing that the piece arrived at a moment when it creates more dialogue," he said. "Because the idea itself is to raise more questions."

For artists and activists, the 650 miles of existing wall and fencing between the U.S. and Mexico has long been a blank canvas.

Musicians have played simultaneously on both sides. A giant wooden Trojan-style horse was once parked near a crossing in Tijuana. There have been volleyball games and church services held simultaneously on each side of the border.

Sections of wall on the Mexican side have been covered with paintings of everything from butterflies to an upside-down American flag.

JR has erected other large-scale portraits in the slums of Paris, from the top of buildings in Rio de Janeiro, and set up giant photo booths from Israel and Palestine to the United States.

The latest piece will remain in Tecate for a month. JR hopes people will view it from each side.

Toronto a coming out party for 21-year-old Timothee Chalamet

TORONTO (AP)—The kind of breakthrough performance where it's immediately apparent that an actor is going to be a star for years to come is a rarity in movies. Think of Emma Stone in "Easy A" or Jessica Chastain in "The Tree of Life."

Chalamet

But that kind of thunderbolt moment is striking now for 21-year-old Timothee Chalamet, a New Yorker with the talent to speak multiple languages, play numerous instruments and take the festival circuit by storm with a handful of performances—including one assured of ranking among the finest performances of the year.

The Toronto International Film Festival has been a coming out party for Chalamet, who has three films at the festival. He stars in Luca Guadagnino's coming-of-age, coming-out tale "Call Me By Your Name," he's a supporting player in Greta Gerwig's equally lauded coming-of-age tale "Lady Bird," and he co-stars in the Christian Bale-led Western "Hostiles." A Cape Cod thriller in which he stars, "Hot Summer Nights," was also acquired here by A24.

But the headliner is his performance in "Call Me By Your Name," which Sony Pictures Classics will release Nov. 24. In the film, adapted by James Ivory from André Aciman's novel, Chalamet plays Elio, a headstrong 17-year-old living with his parents in 1980s northern Italy. When a handsome academic (Armie Hammer) comes to stay with them, Elio has a self-discovery that mingles love with art, language and natural beauty.

In the film, he plays piano and guitar, speaks fluent French and Italian, and indelibly captures the experience of first love. The film and its cast are considered likely Academy Awards contenders, partly because of Chalamet's uncommon poise and wide-ranging intelligence in a deeply sensual movie.

"It feels like a real seminal moment," said Chalamet in an interview. "I feel like the luckiest guy in the world that I get to share it with Luca and Armie and Michaels Stuhlbarg. I'm obviously very young and I've had a short career, but I've never been a part of anything like this."

"He's being excessively humble," Hammer cuts in. "He's the man of the year here at TIFF and we're just riding his coattails."

Though the two are separated by a decade in age and experience, they've become close friends, drawn closer by the intimacy of making "Call Me By Your Name" in the meadows, cafes and villas of Crema, Italy, where Guadagnino lives. "He's a very difficult dude to hate," Hammer said.

What Chalamet lacks in vanity, those around him make up for in their praise for him.

"Not to sound pompous, but the guy is kind of a genius," said Guadagnino, the Italian filmmaker of "I Am Love." ''He has a capacity for understanding human nature instinctively that's astonishing. It's also naive in a way, because he's young, but also very focused. The cinema is at its best when it can present a new personality in the world."

'It' floats away with record-breaking $117.2 million weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—'It' is a hit.

The Stephen King adaptation from New Line and Warner Bros. shattered records over the weekend earning $117.2 million from 4,103 locations according to studio estimates on Sunday.

Not only is "It" now the largest ever opening for a horror movie and the largest September opening of all time, the film more than doubled the earnings of the previous record holders. Before this weekend "Paranormal Activity 3" had the biggest horror opening with $52.6 million from 2011, and the highest September debut was "Hotel Transylvania 2's" $48.5 million in 2015.

"We blew past everyone's most optimistic and aggressive projections and I think there might be room for us to grow this weekend even still," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution.

1. "**It**," $117.2 million *($62 million international).*
2. "**Home Again**," $9 million *($955,000 international).*
3. "**The Hitman's Bodyguard**," $4.9 million *($7.9 million international).*
4. "**Annabelle: Creation**," $4 million *($8.6 million international).*
5. "**Wind River**," $3.2 million *($1.2 million international).*
6. "**Leap!**" $2.5 million.
7. "**Spider-Man: Homecoming**," $2 million *($71.8 million international).*
8. "**Dunkirk**," $2 million *($13.5 million international).*
9. "**Logan Lucky**," $1.8 million *($1.7 million international).*
10. "**The Emoji Movie**," $1.1 million *($5.7 million international).*

Goldstein said he was conservative with Sunday projections due to the confounding factors of the film's R-rating, the popularity of late night showings, the beginning of football season and Hurricane Irma.

Regardless of whether there is an uptick when final numbers are reported Monday, "It's" success is still astounding, especially considering that the project from director Andy Muschietti cost only $35 million to produce.

Critics and audiences were on the same page, too. The film has a fresh 86-percent Rotten Tomatoes score, and audiences, who were 65 percent over age 25, gave "It" a B+ CinemaScore.

Starring Bill Skarsgard as the homicidal clown Pennywise, "It" is the first of a planned two-part series. The second is slated to come out in the third quarter of 2019.

Miss North Dakota Cara Mund is new Miss America

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Miss North Dakota, a 23-year-old who said President Donald Trump was wrong to pull the United States out of the Paris climate accord, was named Miss America 2018 Sunday night in Atlantic City.

Cara Mund topped a field of 51 contestants to win the crowd in the New Jersey seaside resort, where most of the 97 Miss Americas have been selected.

In one of her onstage interviews, Mund said Trump, a Republican, was wrong to withdraw the U.S. from the climate accord aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

"It's a bad decision," she said. "There is evidence that climate change is existing and we need to be at that table."

In an interview with The Associated Press before preliminary competition began, Mund, who lives in Bismarck, North Dakota, said her goal is to be the first woman elected governor of her state.

She said she wants to see more women elected to all levels of government.

"It's important to have a woman's perspective," Mund, who had an internship in the U.S. Senate, told the AP. "In health care and on reproductive rights, it's predominantly men making those decisions."

AP
Miss North Dakota Cara Mund reacts after being named Miss America during Miss America 2018 pageant, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in Atlantic City, N.J.

An Ivy League graduate from Brown University who is headed to law school, Mund went to high school with Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz.

"I said, 'If Carson Wentz can do it, Miss North Dakota Cara Mund can become Miss America,'" she said after winning the title.

She is the first contestant from her state to win the Miss America crown.

Trump also figured in another question asked of a finalist onstage. Miss Missouri Jennifer Davis, who was first runner-up, was asked if Trump's presidential campaign colluded with Russia last year.

She said she does not think enough information has been revealed to support such a charge at this point.

"We should investigate it to its fullest extent, and if we do find evidence, the justice system should do their due diligence," she said.

The second runner up was Miss New Jersey Kaitlyn Schoeffel; third runner up was Miss District of Columbia Briana Kinsey, and fourth runner up was Miss Texas Margana Wood.

Earlier Sunday, as a deadly hurricane was slamming her home state, Miss Florida Sara Zeng sent a message of support to those in harm's way—and was then eliminated from the competition.

As judges were narrowing the field of 51 contestants (each state plus the District of Columbia), they interviewed Zeng, a 22-year-old from Palm Coast, Florida, who noted that her family is safe.

But she expressed concern and support for friends and strangers endangered by Hurricane Irma, which was tearing its way up the Florida gulf coast on Sunday.

"I'm thinking about everyone in Florida every single day, but I know that regardless what happens, we'll all get through this together," Zeng said.

Shortly after her speech, judges read the names of the remaining Top 15 finalists, which did not include her.

Earlier in the week, Wood gave a shout-out to her flooded hometown, Houston; she won Wednesday night's swimsuit preliminary.

Zeng won Friday's swimsuit prelim, and promised she'd be part of the post-Irma cleanup and recovery effort, whether as Miss America or not.

The competition took place at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall, where it originated as a way to extend summer tourism to the weekend after Labor Day.

4 metal band members arrested in connection with kidnapping

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The four members of a well-known Polish death metal band have been arrested on suspicion of kidnapping a woman after a concert last month in Washington state, authorities said.

The members of the band Decapitated were arrested early Saturday in Santa Ana, California, on suspicion of kidnapping a woman after their Aug. 31 concert in Spokane, Spokane Police Department spokeswoman Cpl. Teresa Fuller said in a statement.

The woman told police just before 2 a.m. on Sept. 1 about the alleged kidnapping by the band members, Fuller said. The band had performed at a concert in downtown Spokane. The woman attended the heavy metal concert, Fuller said.

Band members were arrested by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office after their Friday night concert in Santa Ana, Fuller said. They are 27-year-old Michal M. Lysejko, 35-year-old Waclaw J. Kieltyka, 31-year-old Rafal T. Piotrowski, and 30-year-old Hubert E. Wiecek. All are Polish citizens.

"After they finished playing, they were kind of hanging out," Santa Ana police Sgt. Javier Aceves told the Orange County Register on Saturday. "There was nothing dramatic."

They are being held in the Los Angeles County Jail and will face extradition to Spokane, Fuller said.

Steve Graham, the band's Spokane-based defense attorney, told the Spokane Spokesman-Review that the band members are innocent of the accusations.

"There is another side to this," he told the newspaper. "We have witnesses that can testify to the fact that the accuser came to visit (the) band of her own free will and left on good terms."

Graham said he told police that the band members had offered to surrender but never heard anything back.

The attorney said he fears the band members will spend weeks in the Los Angeles County Jail before being returned to Spokane. But Graham told the newspaper that the four will not fight extradition and will return to Spokane willingly.

The band, founded in Poland in 1996, has won critical acclaim for its albums among fans of death metal.

'SNL' hosts Dave Chappelle, Melissa McCarthy win Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dave Chappelle and Melissa McCarthy are Emmy winners, earning trophies for their appearances on "Saturday Night Live."

Chappelle was announced Sunday as best guest actor in a comedy series. He hosted the first "SNL" episode to follow last November's election.

McCarthy won the trophy for best guest actress on a comedy. She hosted "SNL" and portrayed then-White House press secretary Sean Spicer.

Guest acting awards for a drama series also were announced at Sunday's creative arts Emmys ceremony.

The winners are Gerald McRaney for his role on "This Is Us" and Alexis Bledel for "The Handmaid's Tale."

The creative arts ceremony honors technical and other achievements. The main Emmy Awards ceremony will air Sunday, Sept. 17, on CBS with host Stephen Colbert.

Wife treated like a queen longs for simple snuggling

DEAR ABBY: I recently got married to a wonderful man who is 19 years younger than I am. He's the love of my life. The problem is, he sleeps totally on one side of the bed and isn't affectionate at night except when we are making love. Then he is amazing—affectionate, sensitive, and very attentive and kind.

He says his mother was very cold toward him, and he was reared by his grandparents, who loved him, but were not "touchy-feely." He treats me like a queen, Abby. Should I just forget about it and be content sleeping un-hugged and un-held all night?

ON MY SIDE IN MARYLAND

DEAR ON YOUR SIDE: No, you should talk to your husband and explain what your needs are. Although the sex is wonderful, many people—of both sexes, by the way—need to feel the warmth of human contact. Because he treats you like a queen, tell him you need more, and perhaps he will make more of an effort on your side of the bed and outside the bedroom.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I enjoy drinking wine. Because of our busy schedule, we often stock up when there is a sale for the sake of convenience. I cannot tell you how many times the cashier at the grocery or discount store will comment, "Are you having a party?" or "Boy, you sure do drink a lot of wine." As a customer, I find this both rude and embarrassing. Do you have any advice on how to respond to let them know that I find this to be poor customer service?

SHY WINE LOVER

DEAR SHY: Cashiers in retail businesses are on the front lines of public relations. It's important to keep in mind that when they make conversation, they are trying to be friendly. Because you are buying alcohol in quantity, it's not unusual for someone to think you are having a party, and the question isn't rude. All you have to do is say no.

However, if the clerk comments about the amount of wine he or she assumes you are consuming, you are perfectly within your rights to tell that person the comment is inappropriate and, frankly, offensive.

DEAR ABBY: I have developed romantic feelings toward a close friend. They are affecting my ability to be a good friend to her. If I say something, I risk losing someone I am very close to, but if I don't, I may continue to push her away. I have been stuck in limbo for a while. What would you do?

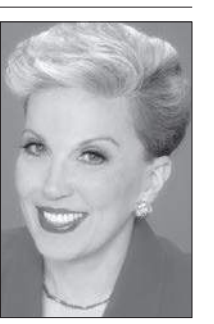
A FRIEND IN LOVE

DEAR FRIEND: The friendship as it stands must be painful for you. Keeping silent will only prolong those feelings. It's time to tell your friend how you feel. You will never know if your feelings are reciprocated unless you do. However, if they aren't, it might be healthier for you to move on so you can find someone who is able to return your feelings.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

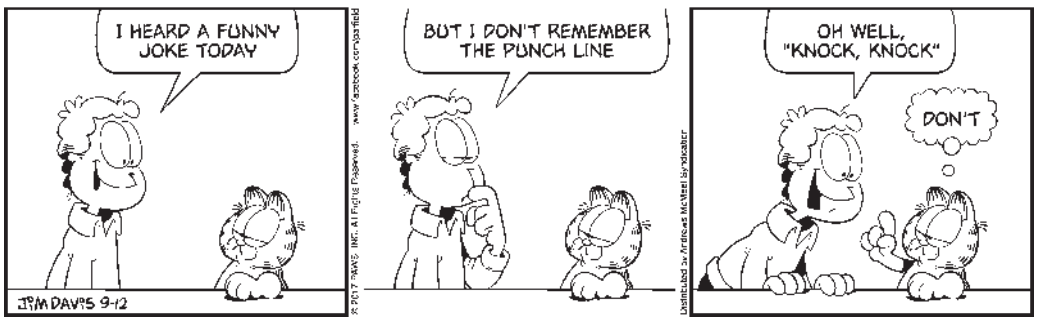
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WE CAN LIVE ANYWHERE WE WANT TO NOW THAT WE'RE SECEDING FROM THE FAMILY!
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO? THE SAHARA? ANTARCTICA?
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET TO ANY OF THOSE PLACES? WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A CAR!
OK, DAD, FOR THIS AMAZING TRICK I'LL NEED AN ORDINARY AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD. NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES...

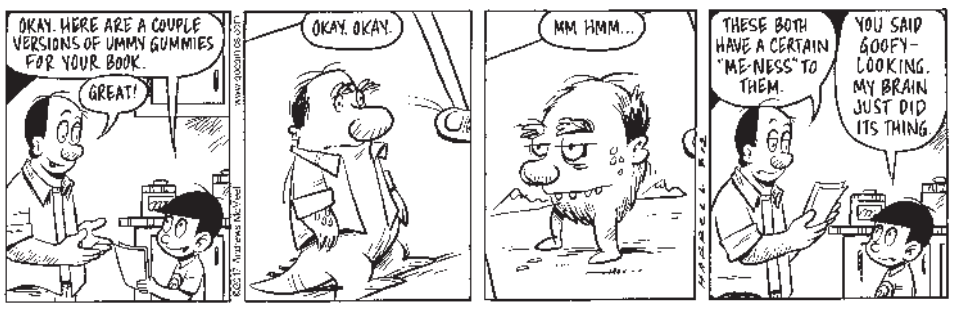
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. HERE ARE A COUPLE VERSIONS OF UMMY GUMMIES FOR YOUR BOOK.
GREAT!
OKAY. OKAY.
MM HMM...
THESE BOTH HAVE A CERTAIN "ME-NESS" TO THEM.
YOU SAID GOOFY-LOOKING. MY BRAIN JUST DID ITS THING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

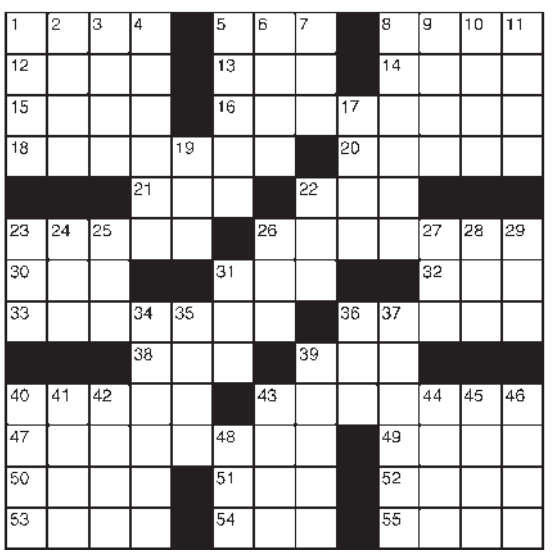
ACROSS
1 Sir Guinness
5 Owns
8 Scent
12 Poet Teasdale
13 Sashimi fish
14 Latvia's capital
15 Tel —
16 Mid-western farmland
18 Freaking out
20 Author Joyce Carol —
21 Small batteries
22 And so on (Abbr.)
23 Brainy
26 Where there are no free spirits?
30 Tire filler
31 Automaton, for short
32 Oklahoma city
33 Torte carrier
36 Old hen
38 Use a shovel
39 Pro's opposite
40 Orange variety
43 Gibberish
47 Young church singer
49 Waikiki's island
50 Sharpen
51 Moreover
52 Loyal
53 Crystal gazer
54 "My word!"
55 Probability

DOWN
1 Now, on a memo
2 Volcanic flow
3 Ireland
4 Ritzy spread
5 Cabbies
6 "Hey, sailor!"
7 Polite address
8 Jerry of stage and screen
9 Regimen
10 Leer at
11 "Phooey!"
17 Forget-me- — (flowers)
19 Purring pet
22 Chow down
23 Pouch
24 Soccer's Hamm
25 Noah's boat
26 Actress Courteney
27 Abysmal
28 Toss in
29 Shaft of light
31 Cranberry territory
34 More jittery
35 Coffin stand
36 Fluffy neckpiece
37 Entirely
39 Bonnie's partner
40 Phil of folk music
41 Loafer, for one
42 Highly rated
43 Dog biscuit shape
44 Difficult
45 Barak of Israel
46 Regrets
48 Satchel

Solution time: 22 mins.

Γ	L	A	B	■	O	N	E	■	A	Γ	R	O
R	A	G	F	■	C	O	M	■	G	R	O	W
O	M	A	N	■	T	R	U	E	I	O	V	E
M	A	R	I	U	■	S	C	F	N	F	S	■
■	■	■	C	A	P	S	■	O	T	T	■	■
¯	R	U	E	B	L	U	E	■	S	I	A	M
A	H	S	■	S	E	E	M	S	■	E	R	A
R	O	O	T	■	T	R	U	E	G	R	I	¯
■	■	T	H	V	■	S	L	A	Y	■	■	■
S	T	O	R	E	D	■	A	S	P	E	C	¯
¯	R	U	E	W	E	S	T	■	S	L	O	E
A	I	R	S	■	A	P	E	■	U	L	A	N
G	O	S	H	■	D	A	D	■	M	E	T	S

Yesterday's answer 9-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emmy Rossum, 31; Jennifer Hudson, 36; Benjamin McKenzie, 39; Louis C.K., 50.

Happy Birthday: Pay close attention to detail and keep up on what others are doing. Stay on top of any situation involving community affairs, livability or local governance. Look at the big picture and make choices that will ensure a better life for you and those you love. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 24, 36, 39, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Show some discipline and patience when dealing with peers, friends and siblings. An honest assessment of a situation at work will help you avoid misinterpreting what's being said. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Get creative and make the personal changes that will inspire you to use your intelligence and ability to spot a profitable deal. Your insight into what works will give you the edge when dealing with peers. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Assess situations honestly and be open about what you can and cannot do. Look at your options and do whatever it takes to do your job or take care of your responsibilities with integrity and good intentions. Physical development is encouraged. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Look at all your options and get clarification if there is something that appears to be sketchy or unsatisfactory. As long as you don't let your emotions overrule your common sense, you will accomplish what you set out to do. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Helping others is honorable, but don't let your generous nature be taken advantage of. Listen to whatever requests are made, and make suggestions of your own. You'll be blamed if anything goes wrong. Work on personal gains and improvements. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't get caught up in someone else's dilemma. If you meddle, you will look bad or be blamed for interfering. Look inward and consider what you can do to improve your life. Evaluate your beliefs and make adjustments. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Short trips will teach you a lot about the way others live or do things. Incorporate what you learn into your everyday life, and you will increase your ability to enjoy life's pleasures with the people you care about most. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Speaking out or letting your anger get the best of you could turn out to be costly. Being honest is important, but pick and choose the best time to let your views be known. Protect your health and important relationships. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen, but don't believe everything you hear. Sticking to the truth will help you avoid complicated situations. Emotions will surface, giving way to arguments and relationship problems. Choose peace and love over discord. Be willing to discuss alternative solutions. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't lend or borrow money or possessions. Someone from your past will let you down or mislead you. Stick to an agenda and back away from anyone who is impulsive or inconsistent. Communication and travel are featured. A commitment can be made. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Home renovations, investments and taking care of family should be a priority. Working toward your personal goals will give you a sense of accomplishment. Pay close attention to children and elders. Romance is encouraged and will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotions will be difficult to control when dealing with work partnerships. Remain calm and you will avoid an argument that would only make matters worse. Getting along with your peers and superiors will be imperative. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, talkative and entertaining. You are perceptive and disciplined.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8	9	1			
				3				
5	6				7		9	8
6		1						2
4	7						1	9
3						8		5
1	8		5				6	7
				8				
			4	1	9			

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	4	5	1	3	2	6	9	8
1	3	9	8	6	7	2	5	4
8	2	6	4	9	5	7	3	1
9	8	7	5	4	6	3	1	2
2	6	3	7	1	8	9	4	5
5	1	4	9	2	3	8	7	6
3	7	1	6	8	4	5	2	9
4	5	8	2	7	9	1	6	3
6	9	2	3	5	1	4	8	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BELGIAN MUSSELS RECIPES Solution: 6 letters

R	S	H	S	T	O	R	R	A	C	O	O	K	L	D
E	O	E	T	E	B	R	I	T	S	B	R	E	H	E
Z	C	S	A	O	O	B	S	L	I	C	E	C	S	D
I	H	U	E	S	R	T	A	E	H	K	E	E	I	R
T	E	W	A	M	O	B	A	K	S	L	L	C	N	A
E	R	A	I	S	A	N	U	M	E	U	I	O	R	E
P	V	T	Ⓢ	N	A	R	O	R	O	D	S	V	A	B
P	I	E	Ⓐ	E	E	F	Y	M	C	T	T	E	G	E
A	L	R	Ⓛ	T	L	D	F	E	E	S	S	R	R	D
R	I	C	Ⓣ	A	E	R	E	R	L	L	E	E	E	R
E	O	U	V	M	A	M	F	B	O	S	I	T	P	A
M	B	O	A	N	Y	R	O	L	R	N	R	T	P	T
M	R	E	C	H	N	O	I	N	O	I	F	A	E	S
I	T	E	T	O	L	L	A	H	S	U	S	B	P	U
S	E	O	T	A	T	O	P	O	H	C	R	E	A	M

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Attorney for Petitioner
William M. Cing

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the matter of the estate of: Vincente Manibusan Cing, Decedent.) Civil Action No. 17-0193) NOTICE OF HEARING) Date: September 22, 2017) Time: 9:00 a.m.) Courtroom: Tinian Court House Judge: Joseph N. Camachi

ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF VICENTE MANIBUSAN CING, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, William M. Cing, has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Appointment of an Administrator for the Estate of Vicente M. Cing, deceased. The attorney of record is Kimberlyn Kay King-Hinds of P.O. Box 64, Tinian,MP 96952. The petition is set for hearing at 9 a.m. on September 22, 2017 at the Tinian Court House in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of September, 2017.

/s/
Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds - F0495
Attorney for Petitioner

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ACCOUNTANT

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications:
An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence.
CPA required.
Experience working on non-profit fiscal management and federal grants.
Must be able to travel within the CNMI and to the US Mainland.
Must have own transportation, with documented insurance, registration and a valid driver's license.

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
Quickbooks and Microsoft Excel expertise.
Familiarity with 2 CFR, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, et. al.

Classification & Salary Range: Part-time, Non-Exempt. 20 – 30 hours per week.
$20.00/hr to $25.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications)

Copies of the full Position Description are available through maisie@endviolencenmi.org or via hard copy at the NMCADSV office (directions below).

Application Deadline and Submission Information:
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, September 15, 2017.
If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only.
Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted via email to maisie@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV's office **(between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)** at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road (north of XO Market), or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance, proof of Certification, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2015-MU-AX-0003 and Grant # G-1701MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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Record-setting Witten, Cowboys top Giants in opener

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)— Jason Witten scored the only touchdown while breaking the franchise record for yards receiving and the Dallas defense shackled a New York offense missing Odell Beckham Jr. in the Cowboys' 19-3 season-opening victory over the Giants on Sunday night.

Ezekiel Elliott had a rugged 104 yards rushing and another 36 receiving two days after a judge halted his six-game suspension over a domestic violence case, although last year's NFL rushing leader had already been cleared to play the opener.

Dak Prescott was turnover-free while throwing for 268 yards as the Cowboys dominated the NFC East rival that swept them during a 13-3 season that topped the NFC and was fueled by the sensational rookie years for the quarterback-running back duo. Dan Bailey kicked four field goals.

Eli Manning didn't have Beckham in his 200th straight start after his dynamic top target sprained his ankle in a preseason game. The Giants were outgained in the first half 265-49 while falling behind 16-0.

Manning was 28 of 37 for 211 yards with an interception and connected with new receiver Brandon Marshall just once, late on a desperation drive with the outcome already settled.

Witten scored the Cowboys' first touchdown on a 12-yard catch and finished with seven catches for 59, breaking Hall of Fame receiver Michael Irvin's club record of 11,904 yards. Witten, already the franchise leader in catches, now has 1,096 receptions for 11,947 yards.

Packers 17, Seahawk 9

In Green Bay, Packers defensive lineman Mike Daniels' strip sack of Russell Wilson deep in Seattle territory in the third quarter set up Ty Montgomery's 6-yard touchdown run on the next play to spark the Packers' win.

Aaron Rodgers was 28 of 42 for 311 yards and added a 32-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson to make it an eight-point game late in the third quarter.

Rodgers' regular-season streak of passes without an interception ended at a career-high 251. The Seahawks' defense reinforced by the return of safety Earl Thomas bottled up receivers from making many big plays and put plenty of pressure on Rodgers.

Rams 46, Colts 9

In Los Angeles, Jared Goff passed for a career-high 306 yards and a touchdown in his first victory as an NFL starter, and the Rams routed the Colts in Sean McVay's impressive debut as the youngest head coach in modern league history.

Todd Gurley had 40 yards rushing and 56 yards receiving while the Rams roared to a 37-3 lead in the third quarter. Los Angeles snapped a six-game skid at the Coliseum with its most impressive performance since returning home from St. Louis last year.

Falcons 23, Bears 17

In Chicago, Matt Ryan threw an 88-yard touchdown pass to Austin Hooper and led two fourth-quarter scoring drives as the NFC champions held on.

The butt of jokes following their epic Super Bowl collapse against New England, the Falcons survived as the Bears had a first down at the Atlanta 5 in the closing minute. Mike Glennon's pass to a lunging Josh Bellamy on first down hit off the receiver's hands, and Jordan Howard then dropped a simple catch at the 1.

AP

Dallas Cowboys' Jason Witten (82) catches a pass in front of New York Giants linebacker B.J. Goodson (93) in the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

Jaguars 29, Texans 7

In Houston, Leonard Fournette ran for 100 yards and a touchdown in his NFL debut, and Jacksonville had 10 sacks and forced four turnovers to help the Jaguars.

The Texans hoped to provide a boost to the area ravaged by Hurricane Harvey with a win. Instead, Tom Savage struggled behind a porous line and was benched in favor of rookie Deshaun Watson at halftime with Houston down 19-0.

Blake Bortles threw for 125 yards and a touchdown, Calais Campbell had four sacks and Dante Fowler returned a fumble 53 yards for a score as the Jaguars snapped a six-game skid against Houston.

Steelers 21, Browns 18

In Cleveland, Ben Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes to tight end Jesse James as the Steelers, with minimal help from Le'Veon Bell, opened the season by holding off the Browns.

Roethlisberger improved to 21-2 against the Browns, who gave their rivals all they could handle -- a positive sign for coach Hue Jackson and Cleveland fans after a horrid 1-15 season.

But the Browns couldn't stop All-Pro wide receiver Antonio Brown, who made a leaping catch in traffic for 38 yards with 2:26 left to seal Pittsburgh's win. Brown finished with 11 receptions for 182 yards.

Raiders 26, Titans 16

In Nashville, Derek Carr threw for 262 yards and two touchdowns, and Carr won his third straight against Marcus Mariota and the Titans in as many years.

Amari Cooper caught a TD pass as the Raiders made the Titans pay for opening the season with an onside kick they couldn't recover. Marshawn Lynch also looked very refreshed after his year away from football. Lynch finished with 18 carries for 76 yards.

Giorgio Tavecchio kicked field goals of 20, 52, 52 and 43 yards in his NFL debut. He was signed Friday to fill in for the Raiders' all-time leading scorer and 18-year veteran Sebastian Janikowski, who's on injured reserve with a bad back.

Eagles 30, Redskins 17

In Landover, Carson Wentz threw for 307 yards and two touchdowns as the second-year quarterback guided the Eagles in a sloppy, mistake-filled season opener.

Wentz was 26 of 39 and threw an interception that Ryan Kerrigan returned for a touchdown. But Wentz made fewer errors than Washington's Kirk Cousins, who was picked off at the goal line and fumbled twice. Cousins' second fumble was forced by Brandon Graham and returned 20 yards for a touchdown by Fletcher Cox in the final minutes, putting the game away.

Lions 35, Cardinals 23

In Detroit, Matthew Stafford threw two of his four touchdown passes to rookie Kenny Golladay in the fourth quarter.

The Lions picked off three of Carson Palmer's passes, returning one for a score. They also knocked David Johnson out of the game after forcing him to fumble in the third quarter Sunday.

Detroit set an NFL record last year by rallying to win eight games after trailing in the final quarter and opened this season with another comeback.

The Cardinals scored the first 10 points of the game and led 17-9 late in the third quarter before giving up 26 straight points.

Panthers 23, 49ers 3

In Santa Clara, Cam Newton threw a pair of touchdown passes following San Francisco turnovers and the Carolina defense shut down Kyle Shanahan's offense in his coaching debut.

Newton threw a 40-yard touchdown pass to Russell Shepard in the first half following a fumble by Brian Hoyer, then a 9-yard touchdown to Jonathan Stewart in the third quarter after Luke Kuechly intercepted Hoyer.

That helped the Panthers get off to a good start in the season opener following last year's disappointing 6-10 finish.

Ravens 20, Bengals 0

In Cincinnati, Baltimore's rebuilt defense picked off Andy Dalton four times and forced him to fumble, making it easy for Joe Flacco in his return from a back injury.

The Ravens ended a five-game losing streak in Cincinnati by pressuring Dalton into matching his career high for interceptions, three of them in the first half. The Ravens got a pair of touchdowns 24 seconds apart late in the half to take control, with Jeremy Maclin scoring on a 48-yard run-and-catch.

The overriding question was how Flacco would hold up after missing all of camp and the preseason with a bad back.

Bills 21, Jets 12

In Orchard Park, Tyrod Taylor threw two touchdown passes and the new-look Bills won in Sean McDermott's debut as Buffalo's coach.

Mike Tolbert also scored on a 1-yard run , while Buffalo's defense had three interceptions, including linebacker Ramon Humber picking off Josh McCown's pass to thwart a 2-point conversion in the third quarter.

Safety Micah Hyde, a free agent offseason addition, sealed the victory by intercepting McCown at Buffalo's 41 to end the Jets' final series.

McGrady headlines Hall of Fame class

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Tracy McGrady says his wife, Clerenda, has been trying to get him to say that he deserves to be in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The seven-time NBA All-Star and two-time league scoring champion couldn't bring himself to do that, until Friday night.

He went to the podium during his induction pumping his fists in the air as the crowd chanted "T-Mac," then celebrated his 15 years in the league.

"On this day, I can finally say, 'Yes I deserve to be here,'" said McGrady, who played for seven teams, starring with Toronto, Orlando and Houston. "I am truly humbled. I'm grateful and proud to be in the class of 2017."

McGrady was among 11 basketball greats enshrined Friday night.

The class also includes former ABA and NBA star George McGinnis, former UConn and WNBA star Rebecca Lobo, Kansas men's coach Bill Self, Notre Dame women's coach Muffet McGraw, former Texas high school coach Robert Hughes, former Harlem Globetrotters player and now owner Mannie Jackson, NCAA administrator Tom Jernstedt and former European star Nick Galis.

Former Chicago Bulls general manager Jerry Krause, and former Globetrotter and New York Rens player Zack Clayton were honored posthumously.

McGrady had earlier told reporters his celebration was being tempered by the impact of Hurricane Harvey on his family and neighbors in Texas.

His estate in Sugar Land, Texas, suffered only minor damage from the storm, allowing him and his wife to take in the families of five relatives and friends for three days after mandatory evacuations. He also put on a Labor Day feast at a church in the Houston area for about 800 victims of the storm.

"My sister was at the house, and I was trying to take her home and driving to her house. Just seeing cars under water and you don't know if people are in there—it's real," he told reporters. "I'm being as vocal and proactive as I can."

After 2 rough years, Nadal back on top

NEW YORK (AP)—Rafael Nadal entered the 2017 Grand Slam season on a 2?-year drought without so much as one appearance in a major final, let alone a title. He ends it having reasserted himself, capped by a U.S. Open final that shaped up as quite a mismatch—and turned out to be exactly that.

His game at a higher level than it needed to be by the end of an unusually easy path through the field, Nadal overwhelmed Kevin Anderson 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday to win his third championship at Flushing Meadows.

"Of course, after a couple of years without competing at this very high, high level," Nadal said, "very happy to be back."

The No. 1-ranked Nadal collected his 16th Grand Slam trophy overall and at his news conference, he wore a white T-shirt listing the date and site of each one. Among men, only Roger Federer has more, with 19. Each of those two longtime rivals won two of the four majors this season, marking their return to the heights of their sport.

Nadal has dealt with knee and wrist problems, both likely a result of his physical brand of play, over his career, but 2015 and 2016 were his first seasons without reaching at least one Grand Slam final since 2004, when he was still a teenager.

AP

Rafael Nadal of Spain serves to Kevin Anderson of South Africa during the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in New York.

Seems safe to say that, at age 31, he is once again the Nadal of old.

"I mean, I've always said he's one of the, obviously, greatest players of our sport, obviously feeling very confident," Anderson said. "He seems to have turned around a lot of those injuries he's experienced the last couple of years. I guess time will tell on that."

At No. 32, Anderson was the lowest-ranked U.S. Open men's finalist since the ATP computer rankings began in 1973. The 31-year-old South African never had been past the quarterfinals at any major tournament in 33 previous appearances, so when he won his semifinal on Friday, he climbed into the stands to celebrate. There would be no such joy for him on this day.

Nadal added to his U.S. Open triumphs in 2010 and 2013 and improved to 16-7 in Grand Slam finals. For the first time since 2013, he appeared in three in a single season, losing to Federer at the Australian Open in January, then beating Stan Wawrinka for his record 10th French Open trophy in June.

Nadal's career haul also includes two trophies from Wimbledon and one from the Australian Open. All of his big victories have come while being coached by his uncle, Toni, who is now stepping aside. The U.S. Open was the last Grand Slam event of their partnership.

It was not as daunting as usual.

Not since Pete Sampras at Wimbledon in 2000 had a man won a Slam tournament without facing any opponents ranked in the top 20. In New York, the bracket was weakened by the injury withdrawals of three of the top five men: past champions Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Wawrinka.

Plus, Nadal did not need to deal with Federer: The potential for a semifinal, which would have been their first U.S. Open meeting, was dashed when Juan Martin del Potro eliminated Federer in the quarterfinals. Nadal then beat del Potro , the 2009 champion but now ranked 28th, in the semis.

Much like Nadal's 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 win against Wawrinka at Roland Garros, the only beauty of this match was not in its competitiveness—not by a long shot—but in an appreciation for one participant's absolute superiority.

Nationals win NL East to clinch playoff spot

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stephen Strasburg and teammates zipped through their quickest home game of the season, then waited along with several hundred fans at Nationals Park. About 90 minutes after finishing a victory over the Phillies, Washington broke out the champagne to celebrate its continued NL East supremacy.

Strasburg extended his scoreless streak to a franchise-record 34 innings, and the Nationals beat Philadelphia 3-2 on Sunday in a tidy 2 hours, 16 minutes. A little while later, Washington clinched its fourth NL East title in six seasons when the Braves beat the Marlins on an 11th-inning homer in Atlanta.

Fans remained in the stands to watch the Braves rally with three runs in the ninth, and fireworks erupted from the upper deck after Atlanta finished off Miami, making the Nationals the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff spot this year. Players poured out of the dugout wearing ski goggles, embraced their wives, girlfriends and children and flung hats and T-shirts into the crowd.

"This one was very, very gratifying. Even though it looked like we had a comfortable lead, it was still a struggle," manager Dusty Baker said in the booze-soaked clubhouse. "A lot of our top guys were hurt."

The Nationals also won the NL East in 2012, 2014 and last year, but they haven't advanced past the divisional round of the postseason.

Indians 3, Orioles 2

In Cleveland, the Cleveland Indians stretched their franchise-record winning streak to 18 games, beating the Baltimore Orioles 3-2 Sunday night behind homers from Francisco Lindor and Roberto Perez.

Cleveland's streak is the longest in the majors since Oakland won 20 straight in 2002. The best run in baseball history belongs to the New York Giants, who had a 26-game streak in 1916, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Braves 10, Marlins 8

In Atlanta, Rio Ruiz had a tying, two-run single with two outs in a three-run ninth inning and Lane Adams hit a two-run homer off Vance Worley (2-5) in the 11th.

Dee Gordon broke an eighth-inning tie with his first career pinch-homer. Christian Yelich hit an RBI double in the ninth and scored on Justin Bour's sacrifice fly to boost the lead to 8-5.

Rockies 8, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, the NL West leaders lost their 10th straight game for their worst skid in 25 years and have dropped 15 of 16 yet still have the best record in the majors at 92-51.

Mark Reynolds hit a grand slam, Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story also homered, and Tyler Chatwood (7-12) allowed five hits in five scoreless innings.

Athletics 10, Astros 2

In Oakland, Astros ace Dallas Keuchel (12-4) walked in two runs and forced in another by hitting another during a shaky sixth inning as Oakland completed a four-game sweep of Houston, which entered tied with Cleveland for the best record in the AL.

Keuchel allowed four runs over 5 2/3 innings. Kendall Graveman (5-4) pitched five-hit ball over six innings and allowed one run.

Brewers 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Travis Shaw hit a two-run homer to back Zach Davies (17-8) as Milwaukee complete a three-game sweep and closed within two games of the NL Central-leading Cubs. Chicago entered the series with a five-game division lead, a season high, but the defending World Series champions totaled three runs in the series.

Milwaukee and St. Louis trail Colorado by three games for the second NL wild card.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 0

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina hit a three-run homer and tied a career high with five RBI to back Michael Wacha (12-7), who gave up five hits in eight innings.

St. Louis has won three in a row and seven of eight.

Rays 4, Red Sox 1

In Boston, With Tampa Bay players' thinking about Hurricane Irma approaching home, they beat Boston to avoid a three-game sweep and deal reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello his major league-leading 17th loss.

Porcello (9-17) took a 1-0 lead into the fifth, when Wilson Ramos and Evan Longoria hit RBI singles. Boston has scored two runs or fewer 18 times in 30 starts while Porcello was in the game.

Yankees 16, Rangers 7

In Arlington, Aaron Judge became the second major league rookie with a 40-homer season, going deep twice as New York moved 3+ games ahead of Minnesota for the AL's top wild card and closed within 3+ games of AL East-leading Boston. Texas trails the Twins by 2+ games.

Gary Sanchez also hit two solo homers for the Yankees, giving him 30 this season and 50 in his 161 games since his 2015 debut.

Royals 11, Twins 3

In Kansas City, Jason Vargas (15-10) stopped his four-game losing streak and set a career high for wins, giving up one run and four hits in five innings.

Brandon Moss homered and drove in four runs as Kansas City (71-71) gained a four-game split and moved within 2 1/2 games of Minnesota.

Angels 5, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Justin Upton had a tiebreaking, two-run double in the eighth off Nick Vincent (3-2) to help Los Angeles avoid a sweep and close within one game of Minnesota for the second AL wild card spot.

Mike Trout and Luis Valbuena had solo homers.

Diamondback 3, Padres 2

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt homered on his 30th birthday and J.D. Martinez went deep twice.

Robbie Ray (13-5) won his fourth straight start, striking out 12 in six innings while allowing two runs and four hits. Archie Bradley got the call over closer Fernando Rodney in the ninth and earned his first save this season by striking out the side.

Reds 10, Mets 5

In New York, Reds manager Bryan Price put his argument with a pair of umpires on pause for the singing of "God Bless America," then resumed the argument. Cincinnati went on to win behind Tucker Barnhart's career-high five RBI. The Reds rallied for three runs in the seventh to make it 5-all.

Scooter Gennett was called out on strikes by plate umpire Shane Livensparger to end the inning.

Blue Jays 8, Tigers 2

In Toronto, Teoscar Hernandez hit his first two home runs of the season and Darwin Barney had four hits.

Detroit dropped to 60-82 with its eighth loss in 10 games this month. The Tigers' only other losing record since 2008 was 74-87 two years ago.

White Sox 8, Giants 1

In Chicago, Jose Abreu homered twice, a day after hitting for the cycle.

Carson Fulmer (2-1) won his first major league game as a starter, allowing one run and three hits in six innings.

Atlanta debuts at glitzy new home with 3-0 win over Dallas

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta United finally moved into their glitzy new home.

It was worth the wait.

Another boisterous, sell-out crowd. Their first victory in more than seven weeks. A thoroughly dominating performance.

Josef Martinez, Leandro Gonzalez Pirez and Greg Garza scored Sunday for the MLS expansion team, which thrilled the packed house of 45,314 with a 3-0 rout of FC Dallas in its debut at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

"Everything about this stadium is world class," goalkeeper Brad Guzan said. "For us to be able to call this place home, we're pretty lucky."

United was initially supposed to begin the season at the $1.5 billion stadium it shares with the NFL Falcons, but construction delays pushed back the opening three times. Atlanta was forced to play its first nine home matches at Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium, and two other games were rescheduled.

AP

Spectators wait for the start of Atlanta United's debut at Mercedes-Benz Stadium against FC Dallas on Sept. 10, 2017, Sunday.

The quirky scheduling resulted in United (11-8-6) having only nine home matches before Sunday's contest, at least three less than every other team in the league. Since the team's last home game on July 29, a 1-1 draw with Orlando, it had played just three matches -- two draws and a loss on the road.

The victory was United's first since a 1-0 triumph at Orlando on July 21.

Nevertheless, Atlanta is sixth in the Eastern Conference and, having played fewer games than any other team, in prime position to make a run to the playoffs in its initial season.

One thing didn't change with the midseason move to a new venue.

Even with the remnants of Hurricane Irma expected to bring high winds and drenching rain to the Atlanta area and much of the city announcing plans to shut down, that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of United fans. Every available seat was filled for a team that already was leading Major League Soccer in attendance at 46,318 per game, on pace to break the record of 44,247 set by perennial leader Seattle two years ago.

They could have drawn even more to what was essentially their second home opener of the season, but red, black and gold curtains blocked off the upper deck to provide a more intimate atmosphere in a facility that can seat more than 75,000. United does plan to open the upper deck for at least two games.

"I don't think there's any comparison to any other team in MLS. In my opinion, they're the best fans in this league," Garza said. "They put on a show for us once more. Thanks goodness we were able to put on a show for them."

Dominating right from the start, Atlanta jumped ahead in the 14th minute when Gonzalez Pirez scored his first goal of the season. From near the sideline, Miguel Almiron floated a pass into the penalty area, Hector Villalba flicked it past two Dallas players with a deft header, and the defender slipped to the back post to knock the ball past helpless goalkeeper Jesse Gonzalez.

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From Page 28

Bartolo added 4 points, while Drew Bayot chipped in 2. Luis Claridadas paced D-Squad with his 10 markers, while Jacody Lizama tallied the 2 other points for the losing team.

BoonkGang followed Ballers Bros to the finals after edging Young Ballers in the second semis tiff, 16-14.

Christian Bravo and Paulo Cadag teamed up in lifting BoonkGang to the victory. Cadag registered 8 points, while Bravo logged 3 of the squad's last 4 markers and finished with 6 points. Adonis Favor also played for the BoonkGang and contributed 2 points in the team's semis victory.

The BoonkGang-Ballers Bros title game was played last Saturday afternoon, but results of the finals were unavailable at press time.

In the men's open division, Paki 3, Almost, the Ol'Aces, and Niknak earned tickets to the final round after surviving the quarterfinals of the 11-team field.

Almost nosed out Dark Horse in their Round of 8 tiff, 11-10. Derrick Rangamar paced Almost with his 5 points, while Ben Taisacan, Leroy Rangamar, and Carl Aldan tallied 2 markers each. Maverick Saures had 7 points for the eliminated Dark Horse.

Paki 3's duplicated Almost's semis stint following a 14-6 win over Rollers 2. Peter Camacho dropped 6 points to lead Paki 3's triumph, while Vincent Taitano and Trevor Ogumoro made 4 each. Ben Lisua had 4 points to lead Rollers 2.

The Ol'Aces gained the third semis ticket in the men's open division after routing Trilogy, 21-10. Dan Barcinas was on target against Trilogy, sizzling for 11 points, while Preston Basa backed him up, recording 8. Douglas Schmidt completes the Ol'Aces roster and scored the squad's 2 other markers. Pete Lizama registered 5 points for Trilogy.

The Ol'Aces went on to advance to the finals after beating Niknak in the semis and the latter automatically took the division title as Paki 3 could not play in the championship game with two of its players injured.

In other results, the Warriors, V-God, Island3rz, and Big B's marched into the final stage of the boys U19 division after eliminating their respective quarterfinal opponents.

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the second half after firing seven goals.

Katrina Costales starred in the defending champion's crushing of TanHoldings after tallying four goals. She made three in the second half to lead Shirley's breakaway. Costales's first goal was recorded in the 14th minute, while the last three were logged in the 39th, 58th, and 64th.

Therize Millare and Valeria Myers chipped in two apiece, while Catherine Magat earned one. Millare drew first blood for Shirley's with her conversion in the second minute, while her last came in the 62nd. Myers' goals were both registered in the second half—53rd and 61st minute—while Magat made it to the board in the 47th.

In other results in the opening week of the youth league, TanHoldings got a free win in the boys U17 division, while National Development Academy nipped Kanoa, 3-2.

Ryan Relucio handed NDA, which made up of the CNMI Women's National Team pool members and a couple of boys U18 players, the go-ahead goal in the 73rd minute. Relucio, who is part of the Teen Ayuyus that will be competing in the AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers next month, also scored NDA's first goal (61st minute) to spark the squad's comeback bid.

NDA faced a 0-2 deficit at the break after siblings Jim and Ian Maniago lit up the board for Kanoa in the 14th and 45th minute, respectively. Ten minutes after Relucio moved NDA within one, Guinevere Borja knocked in the equalizer for NDA before the former completed the squad's recovery two minutes later and stole the victory from Kanoa.

While NDA labored for the victory in its season opener last weekend, TanHoldings made it to the win column without a sweat after a no-show from Paire Football Club in the second game in the division.

KONQER

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watching teams helping their teammates complete every obstacle, and seeing the kids and families having a blast on the course gave us such a great feeling," said Wedd.

She added that they will improve areas of the race that they see needs to be enhanced.

"With every event, there are always ways to improve for the next one. We will look at ways to improve. [Like] our overall staffing, as well as possibly looking to change the event's day schedule to maximize the experience for both participants and spectators. The next KONQER Saipan will be even bigger and better," she added.

KONQER organizers postponed the entire awards ceremony last Saturday due to the heavy downpour . The ceremony will be held tonight at Fiesta Resort & Spa-Saipan's Chambre Bar from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

They had already awarded the Enduro winners last Saturday with United States Marine Corps Maj. Timothy Patrick claiming top honors with a time of 37:08, followed by USMC Gunnery Sgt. Justin Park (38:36), and Joel Phair (38:56).

JON V. PEREZ

KONQER Sports chief executive officer and race director Kaz Endo, right, presents a plaque of appreciation to the family members of the late Gov. Eloy S. Inos during last Saturday's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill held at the park named after Inos.

Patrick, who won his second KONQER event after ruling the Palau race in June, said he was just pleased to be part of KONQER Sports.

"I'm just happy to be a part of a good cause. KONQER's theme of 'wellness through play' is a philosophy that I fully support. I couldn't think of a better mantra for today's parents and youth," he said.

Terenc Kaho Leung (45:12), Robby Glass (48:44), Paul Plunkett (49:10), Joey Tudela (51:02), Ryan Siddell (55:12), Jonathan Wilberscheid (58:28), and Marjorie Daria (59:11) are in the Top 10 finishers of the Enduro division.

The Top 10 teams will be recognized tonight with the Marianas Outrigger Club (50:10), Gold's Gym (1:01:22), and Tao Tao Bud 670 (1:02:56) finishing 1-2-3, and the Saipan Fire Department (1:10:15), Kanoa Krushers (1:10:41), Saipan Brewing Co. Beer Brigade (1:11:12), Hyatt (1:13:12), DFS (1:17:10), Pacific Trading Co. Mountain Dew (1:17:25), and Pacific Islands Club-Saipan (1:18:51) completing the list.

D.R. Safety (1:19:33), IT&E (1:22:11), Kimason (1:24:21), Bank of Guam Glow Worms (1:28:42), Fiesta Rockers (1:33:15), Marianas Health (1:34:12), MV Zorrie Warriors (1:36:10), and Shell & CCA KONQER Cancer (1:40:15) were the other competing teams.

Endo said the Top 3 teams will receive trophies, while the next seven will be given certificates and other prizes donated by local businesses on Saipan.

"These teams represented only the timed or competitive categories. The Completion category yielded over a dozen teams with various numbers of participants. All in all, 497 participated in the inaugural event," added Endo.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	81	62	.566	—
New York	77	65	.542	3½
Baltimore	71	72	.497	10
Tampa Bay	71	73	.493	10½
Toronto	66	77	.462	15

Central Division

Cleveland	87	56	.608	—
Minnesota	74	69	.517	13
Kansas City	71	71	.500	15½
Detroit	60	82	.423	26½
Chicago	56	86	.394	30½

West Division

Houston	86	57	.601	—
Los Angeles	73	70	.510	13
Texas	71	71	.500	14½
Seattle	71	72	.497	15
Oakland	63	80	.441	23

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	88	55	.615	—
Miami	68	75	.476	20
Atlanta	64	78	.451	23½
New York	63	80	.441	25
Philadelphia	54	89	.378	34

Central Division

Chicago	77	66	.538	—
St. Louis	75	68	.524	2
Milwaukee	75	68	.524	2
Pittsburgh	67	77	.465	10½
Cincinnati	62	82	.431	15½

West Division

Los Angeles	92	51	.643	—
Arizona	83	60	.580	9
Colorado	78	65	.545	14
San Diego	65	79	.451	27½
San Francisco	56	89	.386	37

x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KONQER Saipan King of the Hill

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Two participants crawl their way out of the first obstacle in last Saturday's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico.

Triathlon Association of the CNMI member Jasper Baldonado jumps over one of the logs in the obstacle course.

TRAC member Ambet Ocampo reaches to tap the cowbell.

Blake Mister attempts to clear Hanzo's Challenge, a V-shaped obstacle where you're going to climb and touch the opposite ends.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, third left, receives a race bib from KONQER Sports chief executive officer Kazu Endo, right, and KONQER Sports president Kelli Wedd, left. Also in the photo is former Saipan resident Jon Cramer, second left, one of the event hosts.

One of the competitors uses his upper body strength to get past the bar.

A member of the Saipan Fire Department hops from one platform to another.

Two Saipan International School students make their way past the rope.

Record-setting Witten, Cowboys top Giants in opener

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Sports

After 2 rough years, Nadal back on top

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Strong start for defending champs

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United FC's Eun Syu Hahn, lef, deflects the ball hit by Matansa's Joshua De Leon, while the former's teammate Clayton Izuka looks on during the second half of their boys U17 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Reigning champions MP United Football Club and Shirley's FC started their respective title defense bids in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League by easing past their opponents last Saturday.

MP United, which won the boys U17 division crown last fall after beating TanHoldings in a shootout (4-3) during their rubber match, was pitted against Matansa in its first game this season and cruised to a 4-1 triumph at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Skyler Poon knocked in a pair of goals for the defending champion, which is gunning for its fourth straight title in the division. Edwin Kim and the club's new member Anthony Fruit contributed one goal each.

Fruit scored his first goal in an MP United uniform as he found the back of the net right in the third minute of the match. Kim then made it a 2-0 halftime edge for MP United after lighting up the board in the 13th minute.

At the resumption of the match, Poon drilled his two goals in a span of just two minutes with his first one coming in the 62nd minute and the last in the 64th. Matansa averted a shutout loss, thanks to Iverson Santos' shot in the 74th minute.

Meanwhile, Shirley's FC posted a lopsided 9-0 win over TanHoldings FC in the opening game in the girls U15 division at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Shirley's, which ruled its division in the last five seasons, blew the game wide open in

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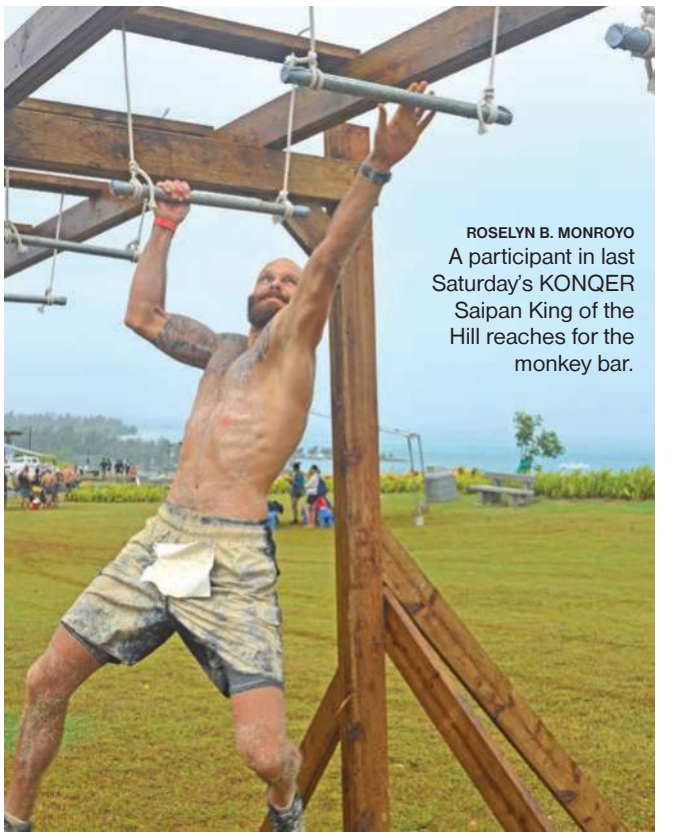
Eventful KONQER Saipan



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A participant in last Saturday's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill reaches for the monkey bar.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

KONQER Sports organizers sort of welcomed Saturday's rainy weather, as it became an added challenge that participants must hurdle to complete the inaugural KONQER Saipan King of the Hill.

Intermittent rain, caused by Tropical Storm Talim, on race day delayed the start and had KONQER Sports officials executing last minute changes for the safety of the participants.

"Of course, the weather caused some havoc for us, but we had a Plan B and executed that to the best we could with little time," KONQER Sports chief executive officer and race director Kaz Endo told *Saipan Tribune*.

"This event smashed all my expectations for a first event. I look forward to delivering an even bigger and better event for next year. We'll also beef up our volunteer team knowledge by 100 percent more to keep the course smoother," added Endo.

KONQER Sports president Kelli Wedd said the Saipan leg of their three-circuit race was most definitely to remember. "I'd say with the rain winds, and mud, it was an event that we won't forget."

"We battled some rain, wind, and delays, but in the end, I think that added to the sense of accomplishment for our KONQER Brigade. Plus, the mud always made it more fun," added Wedd.

"Seeing people cheer on the Enduro participants as they braved the course solo,

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12 qualify in final leg of Hoopfest Marianas

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twelve teams made the grade for the final stage of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 after the Saipan leg of the inaugural competition concluded last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the boys U16 division, the qualifiers were Ballers Bros and BoonkGang, while Big B's, Islander3rz, Warriors, and V-God earned the spots in the boys U19 age groups. Men's open divisions' Paki 3's, Almost, Ol'Aces, and Niknak and women's field's Fab4 and HiDaze completed the roster of teams heading to the final leg, which will be held on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Civic Center Court in Susupe. The Saipan qualifiers will be joined by the winners of the Tinian and Rota competitions. Tinian had its tournament last Sunday, while Rota's event will be held on Sept. 22 and 23.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Ballers Bros player, left, dribbles past a BoonkGang defender during their title game in the boys U16 division of the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ballers Bros and BoonkGang moved into the final stage of the Hoopfest Marianas after advancing to the division title game last Saturday morning. Ballers Bros took the first finals berth following an 18-12 victory over D-Squad. Khristian Itaas powered Ballers Bros past D-Squad after scoring 12 points in the semis game. Stephen

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